



Protest restrain

A Delhi policeman tries to restrain a demonstrating lawyer outside the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi yesterday. More than 200 lawyers protested to highlight its view that Pakistan is supporting a Muslim uprising in the Indian ruled Kashmir. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kaifu for larger role in S. Asia

Major policy speech in India

NEW DELHI, April 30, (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan said today his country was committed to playing a larger role in Asia by marshalling its economic clout.

In what was billed as a major policy speech, Kaifu outlined plans for "a new international order" during a 40-minute address to the Indian Parliament.

Kaifu, who arrived in India yesterday to start a weeklong tour of five South Asian nations, said Japan had learned "the lessons of history" after its defeat in World War II and would never again try to become a military power.

"But times have changed dramatically," he said. "Now that the building of a new world through dialogue and co-operation is being called for, Japan can and must play a positive role by putting to effective use its economic and technological capabilities."

In the past two years, Kaifu said, Japan has sought to expand its development aid to other nations.

"The time has come, I am convinced, for this Japanese initiative to bear its effectiveness even further," he said.

He said that one-fifth of Japan's overseas development assistance was being channeled to South Asia, where one-fifth of the world's population — 1 billion people — live.

He said Japan has earmarked \$50 billion for the region for a five-year period that started in 1988.

Earlier in the day, Kaifu met with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh and indicated Japan would pledge a concessional loan of about 100 billion yen (\$633 million) to India next year, spokesmen for the two governments said.

Japan has tended to shun comments that could be perceived as interference in conflicts or internal unrest in Asia, but in his speech to the Indian Parliament, Kaifu stressed that Japan was willing to work for peace in Asia.



Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu places a wreath on the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in New Delhi yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

"I also believe that it is necessary at this juncture to relate to you how we intend to contribute positively to the relaxation of tension and peaceful resolution of conflicts in Asia," he said.

Kaifu called for "a stable and open China." He said China's violent crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators last year was regrettable, but that China should not become isolated from the world.

Turning to the conflict between North and South Korea, he said Japan would strive for direct dialogue with North Korea "with a view to improving our relations with the country."

In Cambodia, he said, Japan was trying to help develop a comprehensive political settlement.

Kaifu said Japan was concerned about Kashmir, where a Muslim movement to secede from India has drawn India and Pakistan into a new crisis over the future of the territory claimed by both countries.

"I strongly hope that the governments of India and Pakistan will ease the tension through the exercise of self-restraint and try to solve the issue peacefully through talks," Kaifu said.

Kaifu also noted that Japan had welcomed the creation of the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation, or Saarc, to deal with regional matters.

"Should Saarc as an organisation desire to receive co-operation from countries outside the region... Japan will be prepared to consider extending appropriate co-operation," Kaifu said.

Kaifu is visiting three of those nations on his current tour: Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. His last stop will be Indonesia on Friday and Saturday.

Kaifu said the political changes sweeping the world mean the time has come for new approaches to strengthen peace and democracy.

Referring to the debt incurred by developing nations, he said: "It is necessary in the interest of the world economy to resolve their economic difficulties."

Kaifu also took aim at New Delhi's economic policies, indirectly criticising its position in the Uruguay round of talks on global trade and urging fiscal reforms to open its markets and permit greater foreign investment.

He also said he believed that the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, the system regulating international commerce, should be strengthened and expanded to cover "trade in services, intellectual property rights and trade-related investment transactions," a proposal that has been opposed by India and other developing countries during the ongoing Uruguay round of global trade talks.

2 killed in Nepal violence

Bodyguard opens fire

In Nepal

King is a god for villagers

KATHMANDU, Nepal, April 30, (AP): A nervous bodyguard of a district official fired into an angry mob in western Nepal today, killing two people, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said.

He said one person was injured in the firing at Pokhara, 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Kathmandu.

The trouble started after some "reactionary forces, counter-revolutionaries and rowdies" set fire late yesterday to the office of the Pokhara district magistrate, Ramechandra Upadhyay, he said.

Today, a crowd of residents marched to the office's residence to demand the arrest of the culprits, but "the bodyguard became nervous on seeing the mob and opened fire," Bhattarai said.

The army was called out and Home Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyay has flown to Pokhara "with all powers to transfer anybody on the spot to diffuse the situation," he told reporters.

State-run news agency Rashtriya Samachar Samiti said the fire started in three or four places in the building and destroyed all records.

Bhattarai's 11-member pro-democracy government took office April 19 after a popular movement forced King Birendra to abolish the partyless national assembly which he dominated. He also dismissed a rubber stamp government to clear the way for the interim government.

The new government has promised to hold elections within a year and reform the present constitution that gives near-

absolute legislative, executive and judicial powers to the king.

Bhattarai said his government was not planning to introduce an interim constitution, as reported, but set up a constitution commission with Birendra's approval to draft a new constitution that is expected to limit the king's powers.

"Talks with the king towards that have reached a final stage and perhaps soon we may be able to take a decision," he said.

The constitution commission will be set up "very soon," he said without elaborating.

The multiparty movement started in February and climaxed on April 6 when police opened fire on a crowd of 200,000 pro-democracy activists, marching to the royal palace in Kathmandu. Witnesses said 200 people were killed but Birendra's government said 10 people were killed in the crackdown throughout the nation.

Bhattarai will meet King Birendra to discuss abolition of the office of zonal commissioners, a move likely to reduce direct royal control and strengthen the powers of the new multi-party interim government.

Bhattarai, leader of the Nepali Congress Party, told United Press International yesterday he would also discuss broad representation of political parties in a committee for drafting the new constitution. The new constitution would limit the powers of the king.

In another development, Bhattarai said he would send his finance minister to India today to discuss Nepalese proposals to break the 14-month impasse in

KAMIDANDO, Nepal, April 30, (Reuters): In the remote villages of Nepal, the king is a god and the Kathmandu politicians pushing for democracy mere shadows.

For the 22 families of Kamidando, huddled in the Himalayan foothills, caste and tradition come before political reform, and democracy means far less than the success of the season's corn harvest.

"It is a hard life, but that is our fate," said Bed Bahadur Tamang, a 39-year-old Kamidando peasant who shares his thatched-roof mud hut with his wife Thuli and three children, plus oxen and goats.

"Our king is rich and powerful," said Thuli. "We believe he is our God Vishnu."

"How can anyone force him to do anything?" She asked as she prepared the corn paste that is the family staple for all but five festival days a year.

Thuli said she had heard bits of news about the protest in Kathmandu but, giggling, she dismissed them as mere rumour.

Sociologists said the views of Tamang and Thuli were typical of the overwhelmingly rural population of Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world with a population of 18 million people.

Political observers say Nepal's rural majority, their attitudes shaped by caste and poverty, will play a crucial role in the struggle between pro-democracy reformers and monarchists in a general election due in one year's time.

Earlier this month, King Birendra bowed to weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations and named a reformist government committed to introducing multi-party democracy and constitutional monarchy into the Himalayan kingdom.

The king's action ended 30 years of the partyless panchayat system and brought centrist liberal reformers as well as communists into a government previously con-

trolled by supporters of Nepal's mystical absolute monarch.

But the weeks of turmoil in far-away Kathmandu have scarcely touched the rhythms of life in Kamidando, accessible only by a harrowing climb down the sheer face of a cliff.

The villagers mainly raise corn and supplement their meagre incomes with work in nearby shops or at a pottery kiln. Caste determines their place in the village.

Tamang and Thuli belong to the Theshariya or warrior caste, which fiercely supports King Birendra's Shah dynasty that unified Nepal more than 200 years ago.

On those rare days they are treated to meat, if delivered by members of the two low-caste families of the village.



A woman vendor hawks her wares in Kathmandu on April 30 sitting beside a wall on which is written graffiti warning people against extremists. (Reuters wirephoto)

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"Dr Pandey will be carrying a personal letter from me to Prime Minister V.P. Singh," Bhattarai said. He earlier had asked New Delhi to restore the earlier trade relationship governed by a "friendship treaty" allowing special benefits to Nepal.

Last week the Nepali Congress Party made overtures to India during a three-day conference calling "nearer ties" with its giant neighbour.

The trade and transit treaty between India and Nepal expired March 23, last year.

5 killed in Delhi, Amritsar blasts

NEW DELHI, April 30, (Agencies): At least five people were killed and more than 40 injured today when bombs exploded in New Delhi and the Sikh Holy city of Amritsar.

In New Delhi, at least four people were killed and 25 injured in a bomb explosion on a public bus carrying about 60 people, the United News of India (UNI) said.

It was not immediately known who was responsible.

Kashmiri Muslims and Sikh militants waging separate campaigns for independence from India have both staged bomb attacks in the Indian capital in the past.

In Amritsar, in the northern state of Punjab, at least one person, a shopkeeper, was killed and 30 were injured in two simultaneous bomb blasts, police said.

Twelve people were injured in the explosion outside a grocery store that killed the shopkeeper, while eight people, including women and children, were injured in the other blast near a police station.

In a telephone call to a news agency, a man claiming to work for a Sikh militant organisation called the Bhindranwale Khalistan Tiger Force (BKT) claimed responsibility for both Amritsar explosions.

"We have done this to take revenge against the repressions of the government on the Sikhs," said a Bhindranwale Tiger Force spokesman.

The bombs were concealed in cloth bags that were hung on the handle bars of two bicycles. One bicycle was parked near one of the 12 ancient gates of Amritsar's old walled city and the other abandoned about one-half of a mile (0.5 km) away in the Katra Baghian locality.

The devices exploded simultaneously at 5:15 pm, spraying clouds of shrapnel, police said.

A spokesman for Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital in Amritsar said 31 people were brought to the facility with blast wounds. A shopkeeper, identified as Ram Nath Kalra, died from his injuries, he said.

Four other people were released after treatment and the remaining victims were admitted, he said.



An old Nepalese man shows his support to the Nepali Congress Party with the party's flag on his hat in Kathmandu on April 29. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tamil Tigers start 'dictating orders'

Peace panel informed

COLOMBO, April 30, (Kuna): A series of incidents involving the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, have been reported to the chairman of the north-east peace committee, Justice Minister, Shabul Hameed, according to government sources.

These sources said today that minister Hameed will take these incidents with the LTTE delegation when it arrives in Colombo next week.

It is reported today to the Joint Operations Command (JOC) in Colombo armed cadres of the LTTE, numbering some 40 of them, entered a predominantly Sinhalese village, Athawatu-awena, in the eastern province of the island, took photographs of the village and also questioned the Sinhalese villagers there. Another report reaching the

JOC said armed cadres of the LTTE had entered shops owned by Sinhalese in the eastern Batticaloa town and requested the owners to erase all Sinhala language lettering on name boards.

Yet another incident reported was armed LTTE cadres who took away a truck, loaded with rice, which was proceeding to Kandy in the central province.

Meanwhile, the LTTE has sent out instructions to all motorists in the northern and the eastern provinces to obtain driving licences and certificates of road worthiness of their vehicles before the end of June this year, security sources based in the north said.

Stanly Dominic, a member of the LTTE, said the necessary application forms for these purposes have already been printed and are being issued to all motorists.

Confusion delays court-martial

Manila coup

MANILA, April 30, (AP): The first court-martial of soldiers accused of trying to oust President Corason Aquino last December was postponed today because the room was too small and there was no electricity due to the country's power crisis.

Twenty-one officers, including two generals, were to have gone on trial today for their roles in the Dec. 1-9 failed coup, the strongest and bloodiest yet, attempts to oust Mrs Aquino.

But chief judge Brig. Gen. Demetrio Camua rescheduled the proceedings until May 8 after scores of reporters and other spectators jammed the small courtroom, whose air-conditioner failed due to a power outage.

Imelda trial

NEW YORK, April 30, (AP): Imelda Marcos, whose fraud trial was interrupted last week because of her high blood pressure, returned to court today and said she was feeling fine.

Mrs Marcos, 60, fell ill during the trial's lunch break on Thursday after a comments agent told of the day in February 1986 when she and her husband, former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, arrived in Hawaii following his ouster from power.

The agent, Leslie E. Kinney, was to resume his testimony today.

"I'm OK," the former Philippine first lady said as she arrived at US District Court in Manhattan this morning.

Farmers protest

ILOILO, April 30, (AP): About 200 angry farmers stormed the Iloilo provincial governor's office today to demand help for drought damage, and guards opened fire, seriously wounding one protester, witnesses said.

Witnesses said Samuel Torato was shot in the stomach when guards of Gov. Simplicio Grino opened fire to disperse a crowd in the provincial capital of Iloilo, 290 miles (465 kms) southeast of Manila.

The farmers were protesting alleged government inaction and incompetence in delivering financial aid to help them cope with a seven-month-old drought plaguing the central Philippines.

30 die in fighting

MANILA, April 30, (Reuters): Thirty people, including 18 soldiers, died in fighting between government forces and insurgents in the southern Philippines during the weekend, military reports said today.

In the bloodiest incident, communist guerrillas killed 15 troops and wounded seven others on Saturday when they fired on an army patrol fording a river in Davao Del Sur province. The military said five insurgents were killed in the battle.

Chief prosecutor Col. Anciano Disierto suggested the trial be delayed until next Monday, defence lawyers and members of the seven-officer tribunal pointed out that electricity was to be cut that day throughout Manila because of the nation's power crisis.

The trial was then reset for tomorrow.

Problems over venue and electricity were not the only hitches on the opening day of the trial, which was supposed to underscore the Aquino government's commitment to cracking down on its opponents.

During the proceedings, a defence lawyer, retired Col. Mariano Santiago, pointed out that the Philippine flag behind the tribunal was inverted in a "revolutionary position."

Military rebels use the inverted national flag as their banner. Spectators broke into laughter as embarrassed guards scurried to pull down the flag.

Defendants include air force Brig. Gen. Jose Comandador and army Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando. They were among six flag officers charged with participating in the failed plot in which 113 people died and more than 600 were wounded.

Retired Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner has been charged with rebellion and murder but no date was set for his trial before a civilian court. Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenita is still on trial for his role in the plot.

Other defendants include two navy captains, one colonel, seven lieutenant colonels, three majors, five army captains and one air force lieutenant.

All are charged with mutiny, murder and attempted murder and conduct unbecoming an officer. They face sentences of life imprisonment if convicted on all charges.

The most severe penalty handed down so far by a military court to leaders of five previous coup attempts was 20 years of hard labour. That sentence was given to a lieutenant colonel, two majors and three captains in connection with a failed rebellion in January 1987.

Commandador is accused of leading the takeover of Mactan air base in Cebu, 560 kms (350 miles) southeast of Manila. The air base was the last stronghold given up by the rebels in the December attempt.

Afghan relief agency looted in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), April 30, (Reuters): An Australian relief agency today threatened to stop working in Pakistan after thousands of Afghan refugees protesting against Muslim women's exposure to strangers looted and burned its facilities.

Police said they had arrested 24 people for leading Thursday's attack by about 5,000 people on the Shelter Now International (SNI) facilities at a refugee camp outside the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar.

The attack on the community centre for Afghan widows and orphans, a vehicle workshop and a building material factory followed speeches by mullahs who said it was against Islam for women to appear before strangers of the SNI staff.

19 killed in Bangladesh

Freak 'firestorm'

DHAKA, April 30, (Reuters): Freak thunderstorms with red clouds and scorching winds have killed at least 19 people and injured 500 in Bangladesh, officials said today.

They said seven villagers died in northern Sirajganj district when their houses collapsed or were blown away by 100 km per hour (60 miles per hour) winds last evening.

More than 100 people in the area suffered burn injuries during a 15-minute hot spell just before the storm.

The other deaths were reported from Chandpur district in the southeast, Manikganj in the north and seaside villages in Cox's Bazar.

Villagers told weather officials thick clouds suddenly turned red before what they called the "fire-

storm" hit, sending people screaming to escape scorching hot winds.

The officials said the firestorm was a new phenomenon in impoverished Bangladesh, a country prone to natural disasters.

The hot spell was followed by cool winds, heavy rain, hailstones and thunder.

Sunday's storm, the latest in a series that have killed at least 300 Bangladeshis since March, uprooted five power supply towers near Bhairab town east of Dhaka, plunging a vast area into darkness.

Weathermen said today more storms were expected during May and there could be widespread flooding across much of the country.

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Indian fleet of Airbuses to remain grounded, says minister

NEW DELHI, April 30, (UPI): India's fleet of thirteen A-320 Airbuses will remain grounded until a court of inquiry finishes its investigation of the February crash of one of the European-made aircraft in Bangalore that left 90 people dead, the government announced today.

Speaking to the Upper House of Parliament, Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan said the government would not allow the A-320s to fly until the question of the aircraft's safety had been satisfactorily answered.

Khan said the government would not bow to pressure from any interested party to resume operations of the A-320s. No risks would be taken with regard to public safety, he said, adding that the Airbuses would not even be used to carry cargo.

The government has lost vast amounts of money as a result of the grounding of the A-320s.

Earlier this month, an inquiry committee headed by an official of the directorate general of the civil aviation submitted its findings

to a judge investigating the Feb 14 air crash of the Indian Airlines A-320s in Bangalore, 1,100 miles (1,760 km) south of New Delhi, killing 90 people and injuring 56 others.

The committee cited pilot error as the cause of the crash.

Later, a spokesman of the Indian Commercial Pilot Association (ICPA) of the western region said the report was based on assumption and that its members held the France-based Airbus Industrie and Indian Airlines responsible for the air disaster.

'Which Way Home' depicts plight of boat people

Americans, Australians making film on refugees

CHIA-AM, Thailand, April 30, (AP): Television and film actress Cybill Shepherd says she is playing the role of an idealistic American nurse in war-torn Indo-China because of a lingering guilt she shares with many of her anti-war generation.

Shepherd, who has just turned 40, stars in "Which Way Home," a US-Australian production that depicts Cambodia's killing fields, the plight of the Vietnamese boat people and a fictional love story reminiscent of the 1951 Hollywood classic, "The African Queen."

The group is rescued from rape and murder at the hands of South China Sea pirates by an Australian charter boat captain, an alcoholic drifter smuggling antiquities out of Thailand played by John Waters, who has appeared in "The Perfectionist," "Breaker Morant" and other films.

McElroy and cast members note that a quarter million Cambodian refugees still languish in border camps cared for by dedicated aid workers and that pirates continue to prey viciously on the boat people. There are captains at sea reluctant to help the Vietnamese escapees and officials quibble — as

Australian authorities do in the film — about who to accept or reject for resettlement.

Shepherd, who took part in marches protesting the Vietnam war in the late 1960s, views the Indo-China refugee exodus as a tragic result of America's military involvement in the region.

Given its similarities to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, Thailand has served as the location for a number of Indo-China war films including "The Deer Hunter," "The Killing Fields," "Good Morning Vietnam," "The Casualties of War" and the upcoming "Air America."

American campuses home to bigotry

NEW YORK, April 30, (AP): Rather than idyls of openness, many US college campuses are home to bigotry, according to a new report.

"The idyllic vision so routinely portrayed in college promotional materials often masks disturbing realities of student life," according to the report, "Campus Life: In search of community," released yesterday.

The study was a joint project of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, in Princeton, New Jersey, and the American Council on Education, a Washington-based higher education lobby.

The findings were based on visits to 18 campuses, interviews with teachers, students and administrators across the nation, and national surveys of 382 college and university presidents and 355 chief student affairs officers conducted in 1989.

The survey found one out of four presidents said racial tensions were problems on their campuses, and 48 per cent of presidents of research-oriented universities said racial harassment was a "moderate" or "major" problem. Sixty-two per cent said sexual harassment was a "moderate" or "major" problem.

"Since the '60s, the notion of universities having parental authority has greatly diminished," said Ernest L. Boyer, president of Carnegie, in an interview. "But we haven't found new ways to think about the social and civic dimensions of campus life. Universities don't know how to exercise authority even when they see incivility."

Partly out of confusion, there has been a drifting around the civic dimensions of campus life, and nowhere is that more apparent than in racial and ethnic relations.

A Chicago student interviewed said, "We carry a stigma. When I first came here as a freshman, a white undergraduate said to me, 'you're here but my friend who is better qualified, is not.'"

At another campus, a black candidate for student government said a white student asked him, "is the other candidate on your ticket a nigger, too?"

The report urged colleges not to fight bigotry with restrictive speech codes, such as the one passed several years ago by racially-troubled University of Michigan. Instead, they should affirm freedom of expression while condemning campus bigotry in no uncertain terms.

The report said students must be encouraged to look beyond personal goals to their responsibilities to the school community and to society at large. School officials, in turn, need to show genuine concern about student needs.

Classrooms should be a starting point for rebuilding this lost sense of community. Students, for example, should be given opportunities to work together, not just compete. And the curriculum should have a sense of shared intellectual purpose, and not just be a smorgasbord of courses, the report said.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

In fear of sleep
Death battle

SINGAPORE, April 30, (UPI): Frightened workers cluster with their meagre belongings on the lawn of Thailand's embassy, wondering who will be the next to die mysteriously in his sleep.

"I am very scared," said Thavai Hasee, a 30-year-old construction worker. "If I have to die, it is better that I die at home."

The baffling deaths of 15 seemingly healthy Thai labourers in Singapore since the beginning of the year and 200 since 1983 has touched off an international search for the cause and produced heated denials that deplorable working conditions may be a factor.

With Thai and Singapore medical specialists swarming over work sites but unable to isolate the cause, health officials are turning in desperation to the United States, Britain and Australia in hopes of a breakthrough.

So far, physicians have listed culture shock, inadequate diet, stimulants to cope with long working hours, low potassium blood levels, vitamin B1 deficiencies and conditions involving genetics, dietary habits and stress as possible reasons for the deaths, confined to males ranging in age from 21 to 45.

The workers, usually peasants from northeastern Thailand who jumped at the opportunity for jobs in the burgeoning Singapore construction industry, simply blame ghosts and other supernatural causes.

The death April 20 of 28-year-old Wizat Patha was as baffling as the rest.

Savai Wannio, a colleague, said Wizat appeared normal the night before his demise, only to be discovered dead by his co-workers attempting to wake him for breakfast. Terrified, the Thai refused to report for work and immediately made arrangements to depart.

Simon Wee, manager of the firm employing them, said, "some want to go back for a month while others want to go back for good. I don't blame them."

An autopsy showed Wizat, like those before him, died of cardiac failure, with no other clues.

There have been two similar Thai deaths in Malaysia since January, 18 in Brunei over the last year and 600 in Saudi Arabia since 1975.

In Bangkok, Thailand, the government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan has announced it will gradually end its policy of encouraging unemployed Thais to seek work abroad.

Prompted by the rash of deaths, officials said Thais will be better off working in Thailand, where an expanding economy has fuelled demand for labour.

Deputy Interior Minister Wattana Asawahem charged Thai workers are living in squalor in Singapore and said his department will attempt to find jobs for those returning.

"We are not going to ban the export of Thai labour to Singapore now," Wattana said. "But we will slow down and discourage those who want to be employed there."

He said a senior official would go to Singapore to determine how many of the 30,000 Thais in the island nation wished to be repatriated immediately.

Defending conditions here, the Singapore Labour Ministry stressed it found living quarters "generally satisfactory," with the men supplied with adequate water, electricity and sanitary facilities.

"Living conditions cannot be the cause of these deaths as workers of other nationalities have not suffered the same unfortunate fate," a ministry spokesman said.

Concerned that the controversy "may reflect a wrong image of contractors," the Singapore Contractors Association said it is in its members' interest to look after the welfare of all foreigners hired.

Workers are given a mandatory medical checkup, a compulsory safety course, insurance protection and company medical services, the organisation stressed.

With the climate of fear worsening and crowds of Thais seeking to return home, builders are afraid of a labour shortage if the exodus continues and are trying to convince the men to remain.

Terror, however, frequently outweighs even the most ardent persuasion.

"I'm just plain afraid of dying in my sleep," said Kamol Kewai, 24, who had worked for only 10 months and had just managed to repay his agent's \$1,500 fee for securing the job.

ALCALA DE HENARES, Spain: Paraguayan author Augusto Roa Bastos has picked up the world's most prestigious Spanish-language literary prize. He said he would use the \$20,000 award to make books available cheaply in his homeland.

King Juan Carlos presented the Cervantes prize to Roa Bastos in a ceremony in Alcala de Henares, Cervante's birthplace east of Madrid.

In presenting the prize, the Spanish monarch called Roa Bastos "a man of letters and ideas, of words and conscience."

"I see the prize as a double honour," Roa Bastos said, "for my work and for the culture of my country."

The 72-year-old author, who spent several decades in exile during the dictatorship of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, is best known for his 1974 historical novel "The Chief" about the life and times of 19th-century Paraguayan dictator Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia.

The prize is named for 16th-century Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes, the author of "Don Quixote" and considered by many to be the father of the novel.

The award jury, assembled by the Ministry of Culture, selected Roa Bastos from among 32 candidates in November. (AP)

FORT WORTH, Texas: Stewart Copeland, former drummer for the Police, is revising his opera, "Holy Blood and Crescent Moon," which opened last fall in Cleveland to lukewarm reviews.

"There's a lot more that the opera has to offer than we didn't achieve," said Copeland, who is being assisted by the Texas Christian University orchestra.

The new version is expected to make its premiere on Nov 16, at the Tarrant County convention centre.

Copeland also said getting back together with his former Police bandmates for more music making is a possibility.

"One day we'll probably give it a go," he said. (AP)

BOISE, Idaho: A 21-year-old woman who achieved her goal of being a Playboy playmate of the month last fall, became the first black playmate of the year, the men's magazine announced.

"I don't think of myself as black or white," said Renee Tessen, who has a black father and a white mother.

Featured in the June issue, she was chosen by the Playboy staff, and Playboy founder Hugh Hefner gave her the nod.

As Playboy's Miss November, the Boise woman was introduced to readers as "the best thing to come out of Idaho since the potato" spud. Idaho is known for its potatoes.

Ms. Tessen, employed by a Boise electronics company, has done local modelling, including TV commercials and catalogue photos, besides posing for Playboy. (AP)

ORLANDO, Florida: Walter Lantz, creator of the impish Woody Woodpecker cartoon character, received the first star on Universal Studios Florida's "Walk of Fame" as part of his 90th birthday celebration.

The star Lantz received is similar to those on Hollywood Boulevard in California. The \$600-million Orlando studio's grand opening is June 7.

Lantz, 90, has been affiliated with Universal since the 1930s and has drawn cartoon characters for more than 800 animated films shown in 72 nations. (AP)

MIAMI BEACH, Florida: David Bowie's new sound-and-vision tour, which started in Miami, will feature his hits from the 1970s and early '80s — and Bowie says this is the last time he'll perform there.

"After this, I'm through with it all," he told the Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale. "You'll never hear those songs again. It's the '90s. A new decade. What better way to start out than by cleaning house, getting it out of the way and moving on."

"I won't be singing 'Suffragette City' when I'm 50."

The tour, which has already visited Canada and Europe, features all-request shows, with Bowie playing songs named by fans calling a 900 telephone number. (AP)

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts: West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has accepted an invitation to deliver Harvard University's commencement address on June 7, university officials announced.

"Chancellor Kohl has emerged as one of the world's most influential political figures and has contributed significantly to redrafting the political and economic map of Europe," Harvard president Derek Bok said.

Kohl, 60, became chancellor in 1982. He has played an active role in defining the changing relationship between East and West Germany since the fall of the Berlin Wall. (AP)



Crawford's final bow

Michael Crawford takes his final bow in the highly acclaimed musical production to star in the movie version of Phantom, and begins Phantom of the Opera on Sunday. Crawford is leaving the stage rehearsals in July. (Rauter wirephoto)

3-nation peace climb on Everest

BEIJING, April 30, (Agencies): Chinese, American and Soviet mountaineers whose first attempt to scale Mount Everest was foiled by high winds left base camp today for a second try.

The group, trying to promote good will among the three nations, had climbed to 8,300 metres (27,230 feet) on the 8,848-metre (29,028-foot) mountain in mid-April in hopes of reaching the top on April 22, Earth Day. But winds forced the climbers to retreat.

The official Xinhua news agency said six climbers, two from each country, left the base camp first and were scheduled to reach a camp at 6,500 metres (21,325 feet) later today. They hoped to reach the summit May 6. A second group of six was to follow one day behind.

Illness also has taken a toll on the group. Expedition leader Jim Whitaker, who in 1963 became the first American to scale Everest, was evacuated to Nepal in early April after injuring his leg. Xinhua said an American woman climber, Laverne Woods, left on Friday with pneumonia.

The group planned to bring down two tons of trash left by earlier expeditions, including empty oxygen bottles and cans.

Just over 200 people have made it to the summit of Everest since Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal became the first in May 1953.

About 100 climbers have been killed on the mountain, where would-be conquerors face treacherous rock and ice faces, temperatures plummeting to minus 40 F (-57 C) and winds of 50 miles per hour (80 kph).

Choreographer

Shawn dies of Aids at 45

NEW YORK, April 30, (AP): Michael Shawn, choreographer for the Broadway musical "Legs Diamond," has died at the age of 45. Shawn died Saturday at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Centre in Manhattan of complications from Aids.

The choreographer, who learned in 1987 that he had Aids, was fired by the producers of "Legs Diamond." He sued in 1989 for \$2.75 million, claiming he was discriminated against because of the disease. The lawsuit was settled earlier this year out of court.

Shawn also created dances for the Broadway shows "Oh, Brother" and "Onward Victoria." He choreographed several off-Broadway shows as well, including two musical productions that toured overseas: "My Fair Lady," which appeared in Japan, and "Deutschland Lied," which was shown in Germany.

Woman opens house to homeless
'Called by the lord'

TRUMBULL, Connecticut, April 30, (AP): Donna Russell says she was "called by the lord" to open an expensive Lakefront house to the homeless, but neighbours say even God's servants must obey man's laws.

Town officials, acting on a complaint from a neighbour, have ordered Russell to stop taking in young homeless mothers and have threatened her with arrest.

The law in this southern Connecticut community of 33,000 requires that three-quarters of the people living in a single-family dwelling be related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Even the town officer responsible for land-use laws calls the restrictions outdated, but that hasn't quieted Russell's neighbours.

Russell blames the opposition on snobbery and on fears that the presence of homeless people will hurt property values.

"There are people lying all over the streets. If we can't take care of our own brothers and sisters, then what good are we?" said Russell, a divorced mother of three.

Russell, the owner of Sunrise real estate in nearby Bridgeport, was showing the four-bedroom, three-bath house to a prospective buyer two years ago when, she said, "I felt spoken to from God."

She bought the white clapboard home herself in 1988 for close to \$400,000.

Accommodate

Russell said she can accommodate up to three families at a time. She's taken in four women and their children to date. Two young mothers and their babies are now living with her, she said.

She would not let reporter inside her house to talk to the families, nor would she let them be interviewed by telephone. "I don't want the privacy of the home exploited," she said.

The town issued a series of citations and eventually threatened her with arrest. Russell filed an appeal.

She plans to seek a waiver at a May 2 hearing before the town zoning board of appeals, saying it is unconstitutional to require that people living under the same roof be related.

Zoning enforcement officer Donald Murray said that if Trumbull's zoning laws were fully enforced, "you could empty out half the town."

"Anyone who moves in with his boyfriend or girlfriend in a single-family home is violating the zoning law," he said. "Times do change, and I don't think we've kept up with them."

But Fred Radford, an official of the Pinewood Lake Association, is suspicious of Russell's motives. "The first thing that comes to mind is, who is paying for this? Just the bare facts of it strain credulity," he said.

Russell said she is not charging the families to live with her.

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Mexico wants its agents in US

Demands 'reciprocity' in the drug war

MEXICO CITY, April 30, (Reuters): Mexico drug agents, with their unsavoury reputation for ruthlessness and venality, could soon be operating in the United States if the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has its way.

The unprecedented call for the posting of Mexican agents on the US side of the border, a request sure to be opposed by American lawmakers, came in a strongly-worded communique issued at the weekend by the Mexican Foreign Ministry.

The communique, which referred to the findings of a government probe into the abduction to the US of a Mexican national facing charges in the murder of a US drug agent, said that Mexico plans to limit the

activities and number of US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents in Mexico.

It further warned that all joint drug control operations with the US could be curtailed if the Bush administration fails to meet Mexico's demands for "reciprocity" and "new rules of co-operation" in the drug war.

The statement underscored how the April 3 abduction of Humberto Alvarez Machain, a physician accused of participating in the 1985 torture and killing of DEA agent Enrique Camarena Salazar, has soured US-Mexican relations.

Despite public denials of any direct US role in the abduction, officials in Washington who declined to be named have acknowledged that Alvarez Machain's kidnapping was orchestrated by the DEA office in Guadalajara, the city where Camarena was abducted outside the US consulate in 1985.

The US embassy says 43 Americans work with the DEA in Mexico. A Mexico news magazine published a list of 49 DEA personnel here last week, however, and said "an undetermined number" of agents were working in Mexico illegally and "without control".

Regardless of the actual size of the DEA force in Mexico, the Foreign Ministry said the number of US agents would be limited in the future and that their activities would be monitored closely to ensure that they were only involved in "matters of information."

Kidnap leader held in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, April 30, (UPI): Police arrested a former judicial agent implicated in the kidnapping of a doctor that has threatened Mexican-US anti-narcotics co-operation, and will seek the extradition of others, authorities said yesterday.

The attorney general's office said federal police arrested former judicial agent Jorge Covarrubias Manriquez Saturday morning in Mexico City in connection with the April 2 kidnapping of Dr Humberto Alvarez Machain.

Alvarez Machain was abducted from his home in Guadalajara and taken to El Paso, where he was arrested and charged in the Feb 1985 torture-slaying of US Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena Salazar and his pilot.

Covarrubias told investigators he was contracted to head the abduction of Alvarez Machain, who is accused in Los Angeles of reviving Camarena with drugs so the agent could undergo further interrogation and torture by his drug baron captors.

Covarrubias said he was supported to receive 10 million pesos, an equivalent of \$3,600, for his role in the abduction, but told police "they haven't given me a single peso."

Mexican authorities had already arrested six people in the case, accusing them of withholding liberty.

On Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Mexico will seek the extradition of others implicated in the kidnapping, which has drawn charges President Carlos Salinas de Gortari that the DEA violated Mexican laws and sovereignty.

President George Bush denied Friday that any DEA officials were involved in the kidnapping, but said the use of bounty hunters should not be ruled out. The DEA has denied reports it paid \$50,000 to have Alvarez spirited to the United States.

"The Mexican government will begin immediately the process to request the extradition of the persons, Mexican or foreign, who participated in the carrying out, planning or organisation of the kidnapping," a Foreign Ministry communique said.

Salvador

Bishop raps military aid

SAN SALVADOR, April 30, (AP): San Salvador's auxiliary bishop yesterday criticised US military aid to his country, saying "weapons must be traded for plows as soon as possible."

Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez during yesterday's homily said the military aid should go instead toward solving the overwhelming social problems that have fuelled El Salvador's 10-year-old civil war.

Hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans have been displaced by the fighting, and unemployment or underemployment in the country is estimated in the 45 per cent range. "Weapons are always a danger, which is why peace is not built with weapons. It is built with reason and dialogue," he said.

He also attacked a threat by rightist President Alfredo Cristiani to cut back on social programmes to increase the military budget if the US aid is cut.

Contras to meet Chamorro to discuss disarming

Will not hand in weapons until rebel conditions have been met

MANAGUA, April 30, (UPI): Contra rebels have begun to move into cease-fire zones but will not hand in weapons until they discuss a list of demands at a meeting this week with President Violeta Chamorro, rebel leaders said yesterday.

Contra political advisor Aristides Sanchez said a rebel delegation will meet with Chamorro Wednesday to discuss the demobilisation of the rebels, who agreed to enter cease-fire zones by April 25, the day Chamorro took office, and to disarm completely by June 10.

Sanchez said Roberto Ferrey, a Chamorro advisor and former Contra leader, told the rebels a meeting could be held with the new president on Wednesday, May 2.

"The leadership of the Nicaraguan resistance is going to hold talks with President Chamorro and will make up work teams for economic and social issues to solve the current problem, which is getting bogged down by a lack of confidence on the part of the rebel combatants," Sanchez told United Press International.

For the first time since demobilisation talks began

in March, the Contra delegation will include Chief of Staff Israel Galeano, popularly known as Commander Franklin.

Max Rodriguez, one of the Contra commanders who signed the cease-fire and disarmament agreement April 19, was quoted in the Sandinista newspaper Barricada as saying the Contras have a list of conditions to present to Chamorro.

"We have a list of demands that I think are acceptable, but if Chamorro does not accept them we will stay here in the mountains," Rodriguez told Barricada.



Salute to the crowd

Secretary-general of the South African Communist Party Joe Slovo salutes a crowd during a rally on Sunday after returning from 27 years in exile for talks with the government this week. On the left is African National Congress (ANC) deputy president Nelson Mandela. (Reuters wirephoto)

Apartheid hard to spot

Whites venture

TEMBISA, South Africa, April 30, (Reuters): Apartheid is hard to spot on the streets of central Johannesburg where blacks and whites shop and work together daily.

But when they go home, for all the talk of future power-sharing, the gulf between the races is only too obvious.

Apartheid, South Africa's unique system of racial segregation, mandates that blacks and whites live apart. Only black servants are allowed to live in white areas. But that gives the black community a sense of how whites live.

Most whites still see black towns only fleetingly on television, usually when violence has erupted. They are viewed as dangerous, alien places.

When 60 whites chose to spend four days in the black township of Tembisa earlier this month they attracted amazement, derision and fear from their own kind — and a warm welcome from across the racial divide.

"My mother was in tears for a day and a half," said Maureen Jager, a young housewife whose husband tried to talk her out of her 10-km (six mile) journey from their comfortable white-only suburb to the matchbox houses and dusty streets of Tembisa.

"If anything happened to me my friends would say it was no place for a white woman."

The visit was only the third of its kind in half a century of apartheid. Nico Smith, a minister in the white Dutch Reformed Church who started the "encounter" programme of black-white social exchanges in 1986, knows the reaction.

He was cut off by friends, family and church when he moved into a black township to begin his work. He now belongs to the rebel black Dutch Reformed Church and has retired to Pretoria.

The only blacks Jager had come into close contact with before visiting Tembisa were her maid and gardener. "It is quite nice meeting them on an equal footing, not as a 'madam', she said.

"I know I'm prejudiced, but I was pleasantly surprised by how many people I've met who have degrees."

The visitors were given VIP treatment. "They give you pride of place," said Ian Lourens, a town councillor from the exclusively white suburb of Midrand, near Johannesburg, after his first night in the township.

"There were eight people in the house, I'm now the ninth, but they wouldn't let me sleep on the floor, so I shared a bed with my host's brother."

Teacher Janet Blackensee was given an "official welcome" to her street by a group of neighbours, and first shift in the super rota in Roseline Jozana's tiny kitchen. A stream of relatives and friends came to look.

The four-roomed house was better than most in Tembisa. It had an inside bathroom, running water and electricity. At night only eight people occupied the two bedrooms, half the average.

Blackensee took a cake as a gift for her hosts and apologised that it was made in a microwave oven. She was surprised to find Jozana did not even have a refrigerator. More than 100 blacks had offered to have the pioneering whites to stay. Many were disappointed.

Exchange organiser Barry Poppleton said: "We were expecting 200 (white visitors), but lots made excuses at the last minute."

He said fear could have been an element. Many townships have been violent since the government legalised black political activity in February, although Tembisa has been calm.

The African National Congress, the biggest black opposition group, offered to protect the visitors after a group of youths told Poppleton they did not want whites in their township. But no protection was necessary.

Jager said she felt quite safe walking around Tembisa at night — something many white South Africans would never do in their own suburbs where they shelter behind high walls and guard dogs and move around by car.

For Poppleton, breaking down white fear is vindication enough of the encounter programme. "Black people hold the key to the liberalisation of the white community," he said.

He hoped the realisation that blacks accepted them did not make it easier for whites to live with apartheid. The visitors were taken on a tour of the township that included a squatter camp where hundreds live in plastic shacks.

Some were uncomfortable amid the rubbish. "I don't think we should be here, these people have their dignity," said Blackensee.

The squatter, including a man in a three-piece suit who had come home from work in the white city, didn't seem to mind.

Eighteen-year-old Benina Mkwana, who hosted Johannesburg schoolgirl Jackie Bester, explained: "We're glad to have people coming to our city to see what life is like — we're fighting to live the way they live."

Noriega accounts frozen in States

MIAMI, April 30, (AP): Attorneys for ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega said today that the US government has frozen all their client's money, and they are filing a motion to withdraw from the case.

"There are millions of dollars in bank accounts that are frozen, and even though under the government's contention, they are not subject to the forfeiture law," said Jon May, one of Noriega's four attorneys. "We are not asking for any funds that would be tainted."

May said the defence has received only "a few thousand dollars" for expenses since Noriega's capture, and nothing for lawyer fees.

He said the defence now needs money to travel, take depositions, and do research, but lacks the resources because of the frozen bank accounts.

"But the government is refusing to even negotiate," he said.

He emphasised that the motion to withdraw was not automatic, and must be approved by presiding US district judge William Hoeveler.

May blamed the administration of US President George Bush for freezing Noriega's accounts, rather than the US attorney's office in Miami, saying it was a policy decision that obstructed the defence.

"The government is spending \$20 million to \$30 million on their case," said another defence attorney, Steven Kofin. "We don't need anywhere near that amount, but we may need \$5 million to defend General Noriega."

The US attorney's office, which is prosecuting the case, had no immediate reaction to the announcement.

Noriega is currently jailed at the federal metropolitan correctional centre southwest of Miami on drug charges springing from a February 1988 indictment. The document accuses him of accepting bribes to turn Panama into a way station drug smuggling by Colombia's Medellin drug cartel.

Noriega surrendered to US authorities Jan 4, two weeks after the United States invaded Panama.

His trial is set for January 1991, and it was not clear whether a change in defence attorneys would set that date back.

EPLF seizes

another town

NAIROBI, April 30, (Reuters): Rebels in northern Ethiopia said today they had captured another town in Eritrea province where rebel forces are advancing on the provincial capital Asmara from the south.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said its forces wiped out the army garrison at Diga, 70 km (45 miles) south of Asmara, yesterday.

It was the third town in southern Eritrea which the EPLF claims to have captured last week, following Senafe and Adi Kayeb. All three are on the main road leading south from Asmara towards Addis Ababa, the capital.

EPLF spokesman Yemane Gebre Meskel told Reuters by telephone from London that he had no details of casualties.



Signing up

An African National Congress (ANC) supporter holds up his new ANC membership card on Sunday at a rally in Mitchell's Plain township. The organisation started signing up members last week prior to talks with South African government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Oxfam drops sanctions call

LONDON, April 30, (AP): Oxfam, the world-renowned charity, has been forced to withdraw a leaflet calling for continued economic sanctions against South Africa because it may be breaking Britain's charity laws.

The move came on the weekend that Oxfam was to launch "Front Line Africa," an appeal for £1 million (\$1.6 million) for its charity work in South Africa and neighbouring African states.



Homage to Pizarro

Mourners gathered on Saturday to pay homage to slain M-19 presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro, who was assassinated on April 26. (Reuters wirephoto)

Navarro named to replace Pizarro

BOGOTA, April 30, (UPI): A guerrilla group-turned-political party has chosen a new presidential candidate to take the place of Carlos Pizarro, assassinated Thursday aboard a commercial airline flight.

Antonio Navarro Wolf accepted the candidacy of his party Saturday during a massive funeral for Pizarro. He was heavily guarded by men openly brandishing weapons during the funeral.

"Carlos, they have asked me to continue your path of peace and I accept," Navarro said in accepting the nomination.

Colombia's presidential election is set for May 27. Pizarro was running a distant fourth in the polls before he was slain.

Polls have shown Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, candidate of the ruling Liberal Party, with a large lead over his nearest rival.

Pizarro, 39, former commander of the M-19 guerrilla group that earlier this year turned in its weapons to join the legal political process, was killed Thursday by an assassin as he travelled to a campaign appearance aboard an Avianca Airlines flight. He was the third candidate assassinated in less than a year. The gunman was killed instantly by bodyguards.

Officials in Caracas said a guerrilla group calling itself the "Jaime Bateman Command" detonated three bombs early Sunday in the Colombian consulate in Barinas, 312 miles (500 km) southwest of Caracas, apparently to protest Pizarro's assassination.

"Don't kill our desire for peace," said a slogan painted by the guerrilla group at the bombing scene.

President Virgilio Barco said television and radio broadcasts would be opened to the surviving candidates to replace public campaign appearances and admitted the nation was practically helpless against suicide assassins.

A hit squad linked to the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel that was formed to fight the extradition of indicted drug traffickers to the United States denied involvement in the shooting.

Pizarro was the third presidential candidate killed in less than a year. The others were the leading candidate of the ruling Liberal Party, Senator Luis Carlos Galan, on Aug 18, 1989, and Bernardo Jaramillo of the leftist Patriotic Union coalition on March 22.

Endara makes first visit to US

Kidnappers held

WASHINGTON, April 30, (AP): The United States and Panama are using the occasion of President Guillermo Endara's first official visit as leader of Panama to sign three agreements aimed at fighting drug trafficking.

During his five-day trip to Washington and New York, Endara will also meet with officials from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

After a meeting between Endara and President George Bush today, representatives of the two countries were to sign an agreement allowing the US military to board Panamanian-flag vessels suspected of carrying narcotics, another seeking to regulate chemical substances used for illicit drugs, and a third permitting the US Coast Guard to enter Panamanian territorial waters under specified circumstances.

A senior US official, who insisted on anonymity, drew a sharp contrast between conditions in Panama since the US invaded in December and those that prevailed a year ago when Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega was still firmly in charge. International observers had said Endara had won the May 1989 presidential elections, but Noriega refused to allow him to take office.

The Noriega-controlled electoral tribunal threw out the results of the election, creating a constitutional crisis. Endara was sworn in as president while US invasion forces were still in Panama.

The US official said Endara's legitimacy is increasingly recognised both in Panama and abroad, even though he assumed his duties as a direct result of military intervention.

Although there was little sympathy for Noriega internationally, a published report quoted a prosecutor as saying the kidnapping was related to the theft of \$47 million from Panama's National Bank during Noriega's rule.

Endara has expressed interest in a free-trade agreement with the United States, and that issue is expected to come up in this week's talks.

Six people have been arrested in the kidnapping death of a grandson of a former top assistant to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the attorney-general said.

A published report quoted a prosecutor as saying the kidnapping was related to the theft of \$47 million from Panama's National Bank during Noriega's rule.

Contra rebels listen to a radio broadcasting Violeta Chamorro's inaugural address on April 25. The Contras listened to the address while concentrated in a cease-fire security zone 110 miles north of Managua. (Reuters wirephoto)

200 million people may die prematurely: WHO

Many could be saved with shift of resources

WASHINGTON, April 30. (Agencies): A World Health Organisation study released yesterday said as many as 200 million people may die prematurely during the 1990s and many could be saved with just small shifts of resources to health care.

"Disease is the most destructive force in the world today," said Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of the WHO. "If the current trends continue, 200 million people may die prematurely from preventable causes in the 1990s."

According to the WHO analysis, prepared for the international organization's 1990 World Health Assembly to be held later this year,

about 50 million people die each year from all causes, including disease. Of those deaths, about 80 per cent occur in developing countries.

Of the 50 million deaths, about 14.6 million are children under the age of five living in developing countries.

"More than 8,000 children die each day because they are not immunized; almost 11,000 a day die of dehydration caused by diarrhoea and about 8,000 a day of pneumonia," the report said.

The report also found that during any two-week period, at least 1 billion people — one of five people on earth — are diseased, in poor health or malnourished.



A World Health Organisation report released yesterday reveals that many of the 40 million people who die annually around the world from disease could be saved by shifting a small amount of resources to health care.

But it said the biggest killer worldwide was cardiovascular, or heart, disease, with 12 million deaths annually. It is followed by 5 million deaths due to diarrhoeal disease. Cancer and pneumonia cause about 4.8 million deaths each and tuberculosis is responsible for 3 million deaths each year.

For the first time, the report analyzes the most prevalent diseases in the world. It found:

■ 2.2 billion people have intestinal worms.

■ 2 billion people are infected with hepatitis B, a liver infection.

■ 1.8 billion people have vaccine-preventable diseases.

■ 5 billion suffer from anaemia.

■ 500 million people from various tropical diseases.

■ 260 million people have sexually-transmitted diseases.

After the age of 5, cancer is one of the three main causes of death in both industrialized and developing countries, accounting for about one-tenth of all deaths worldwide.

Latest WHO global statistics indicate a world-wide increase in cancer incidence and mortality due to an increase in the average age of the population, an improvement in control of other major health problems, and increases in the use of tobacco.

The most prevalent form of cancer among males is lung cancer. For females it is breast cancer, and if both are considered together, the most prevalent form is cancer of the stomach, followed by lung cancer.

WHO also estimates that between 5-10 million people are infected with the HIV, the virus which causes the fatal acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids). It is projected that by the end of 1991, cumulatively over one million cases of Aids will have occurred world-wide and by the end of this century the cumulative number of Aids will likely reach several million.

The report said many people are commonly afflicted with more than one disease but also noted that being infected with a disease does not always mean illness. It said, for example, 1.7 billion people carry tuberculosis bacteria but the agency estimated only 20 million have an active case of the disease.

Nakajima said many of the deaths and the suffering could be alleviated.

It noted that the cost of immunizing all children and providing medication for dehydration and pneumonia is about \$2.7 billion a year and could save the lives of 7.5 million children annually.

The report also argued that at least 50 per cent of the early deaths due to cardiovascular disease could be eliminated with changes in the way people live.

It also said some 3 million adults die from tobacco-related diseases annually and "the prevention of these tobacco-related deaths is the most simple of all."

Nakajima said that with the decline of global military tensions, "there may be more money to fight the world-wide war on disease. We are looking for a health dividend."

The study also found a wide variation in health care expenditures, ranging from \$1,900 per person in the United States to about \$5 per person in the world's poorest countries.



Convicts rampage

A rampage by 500 convicts caused at least 10 million francs (\$1.7 million) damage last weekend to the Loos-Les-Lille prison, authorities reported Monday.

Regional penal officials in the Nord department said the riot from damage could rise once a full inventory is taken.

In the two-day uprising that began after Saturday's exercise period, inmates burned a workshop and garage, sacked 175 cells and hurled roof tiles at police. No serious injuries were reported.

Prison investigators interrogated inmates one-by-one Monday to determine who led the rioting. They said they

would uphold promises made by negotiators that no general reprisals would be carried out.

Guard of the Seals Pierre Arpaillange, the country's top prison official, blamed the riot on overcrowding at Loos-Les-Lille, which was built for 550 prisoners but now holds 1,000.

Fifty prisoners at Loos-Les-Lille held out overnight on the prison roof (above) agreeing to return to their cells Sunday morning, 18 hours after the mutiny started. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nasa's great space plan

Newgrange mound

World's oldest

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, April 30. (AP): Now that the Hubble space telescope is circling the world to look for secrets of the universe, the US space agency is working on putting three other major observatories in orbit this decade.

Hubble is the flagship of what have become known as the great observatories. The next to be launched is the Gamma Ray observatory, scheduled to head into space aboard the shuttle Atlantis in November. It will investigate matter at extreme temperatures and pressure where nuclear synthesis is occurring.

The advanced X-ray astrophysics facility is due to go up in 1997, followed by the space infrared telescope facility in 1998.

Each observatory will operate far above earth's obstructing atmosphere and thus provide views of the universe unachievable by the best telescope on the highest peak.

"The great observatories are moving us into a new order of magnitude of the parts of the universe that we can study, so we're almost guaranteed having whole new worlds of study opened up to us. They're things we just never could look at before," said astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman.

Hoffman is one of four astronauts slated to fly aboard the shuttle Columbia next month with a \$100 million observatory called Astro.

Astro's four scientific instruments will measure ultraviolet and X-ray radiation during the nine-day flight, the first space-based mission since 1985.

"The most significant thing is that this (Astro) covers a part of the spectrum that Hubble can't touch," said Frank Six, a senior scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama.

One of its targets will be comet Austin, believed to be on its first trip through the solar system. Halley's comet would have been observed if Astro had gone up as planned right after the 1986 Challenger mission that ended in tragedy.

Interstellar space dust — difficult to see and measure because it's dark — also will be studied by Astro. Astronomers have no idea how much there is or how much it contributes to the total mass of the universe.

"It doesn't sound very romantic to say you're studying dirt, but that's basically one of the fundamental things we're looking at," Hoffman said.

Launch of Columbia is targeted for May 16. Two weeks later, Nasa plans to launch a Delta-2 rocket carrying a German X-ray observatory known as Rosat. And in August 1991, the agency will send up the extreme ultraviolet explorer, also on a Delta.

The observatories, great and small, will complement one another and help astronomers determine how and when the cosmos came to be and whether other stars have planets.

Astro, for example, will provide ultraviolet targets for Hubble during the telescope's planned 15-year lifetime.

"Astronomers would never survive with just one telescope or one sort of telescope. There are always new ideas," said astronomer Robert Parker, an astronomer on the Astro mission.

Although the Hubble space telescope may never be fully operational because a jammed radio antenna, officials were confident the giant observatory would be able to complete its 15-year exploration of the universe.

"We're chipping away at this thing," said Ronald Schlegel, director of orbital verification for the telescope project. "But it's (like) building a grand piano."

NEWGRANGE, Ireland, April 30. (Reuters): As the sun rises, the first beam of light pierces the neolithic darkness in the world's oldest astronomical observatory.

Newgrange — an Irish burial mound — dates back 5,000 years to a winter solstice captured with pinpoint accuracy by ancient pagans who dramatically lit their holiest burial chamber with the life-giving rays of a reborn sun.

"What fascinates people so much about Newgrange is that we know so little about it. Your imagination fills it up," said Clare Tully, the ebullient Newgrange guide.

"This place is 1,000 years older than Stonehenge in Britain. It is 500 years older than the Egyptian pyramids at Giza."

The most magical day to be at the ancient site just an hour's drive north from Dublin, is December 21, the midwinter solstice. Then comes convincing proof that this is the oldest known observatory on earth.

Four-and-a-half minutes after sunrise, a thin pencil of light appears and then widens into a piercingly bright shaft that illuminates the vaulted chamber for 17 minutes.

The reason for the four-and-a-half minute delay is that when Newgrange was built about 3,150 B.C. the tilt of the earth's axis was slightly more than it is today.

Irish cosmic physicist Tom Ray has calculated that when Newgrange was constructed the rising sun would have first appeared at the winter solstice as a long narrow beam reaching into the backmost alcove. Now it just reaches the edge of the alcove.

There is nothing accidental about the timing of Newgrange. Its neolithic architects clearly worshipped the life-giving force of the sun.

Hippies converge on Stonehenge in Britain every year for the midsummer solstice, a sacred Druid ritual.

Newgrange, perched on a county meath hillside by the River Boyne, is spared a mass invasion.

"People are much more calm about Newgrange. We never get any more than about 100 on the midwinter solstice dawn," Tully said.

The Irish tourist board, wanting to keep numbers down to manageable levels, never advertises it.

Newgrange attracts up to 1,000 people a day. But the burial mound 95 metres (315 feet) across and 12 metres high (40 feet) high is unspoiled. The grandeur of the sweeping scene is left to speak for itself.

The site — which was originally covered with blocks of white quartz and surrounded by a circle of tall upright stones — certainly fires the visitor's imagination. Tully never squashes their theories, however far-fetched, about the burial mound and chamber.

"If you believe it was built by extra-terrestrials, we would smile wryly but not contradict you. Some believe it was an ancient energy booster line between ancient China and the lost city of Atlantis. That's fine, OK."

"People tell us what a great place it would have been to store wine. We argue it is better suited to spirits."

Lafontaine to be discharged

BONN, April 30. (Reuters): West Germany's main opposition candidate for chancellor, Oskar Lafontaine, will on Wednesday leave hospital where he has been receiving treatment following an assassination attempt.

A Saar state government spokeswoman said Lafontaine, who underwent an operation in Cologne's University clinic after a woman stabbed him in the throat during an election rally last Wednesday night, would not need further in-patient treatment after his discharge.

The assailant, 42-year-old Adelheid Streidel, is having psychiatric tests to determine her state of mind when she attacked Lafontaine, who is leading the Social Democratic campaign to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in West Germany's December elections.

Cologne's public prosecutor Bernhard Jansen said last week the tests would determine whether Streidel stood trial or was confined to a mental institution.

Tories set to lose heavily in locals

LONDON, April 30. (UPI): The ruling Conservative Party is set to lose heavily in this week's local council elections as voters show their contempt for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's highly unpopular poll tax, opinion polls published yesterday show.

A poll in the Sunday Times showed that the opposition Labour Party holds a 23 point lead over the Tories, with a 54 per cent majority against the Conservatives 31 per cent. The remaining 15 per cent is divided between the Liberal Democrats Party, the Greens and other parties, the market and opinion research international poll showed.

A similar poll published in the Independent on Sunday newspaper predicted that the Conservatives would lose 300 to 400 seats in the May 3 elections, including 10 Tory boroughs, such as Westminster, Labour stands to win up to 600 seats, the poll said.

Forty-three per cent of the voters said the poll tax was the most important issue in deciding how they would vote in the local elections Thursday, the survey showed.

Widespread Tory losses in the elections — in which there are 4,538 seats up for grabs in England and Wales and 534 posts in Scotland — could bring renewed challenges to Thatcher, whose popularity has plunged in recent months.

It would also heighten calls for Thatcher to quickly change the poll tax, which has already sparked violent riots in London and across the nation.

The tax replacing property taxes went into effect April 1 in England and Wales, and a year earlier in Scotland. It requires that must be paid by every Briton who is at least 18 years old, with some exceptions, and does not discriminate according to wealth.

Demonstrators have burned their poll tax bills in defiance of the government, while others, including Labour Members of Parliament, have openly said they will not pay it.

Temperatures in London yesterday reached 23 degrees Centigrade against 17 on the rainy Costa del Sol in Spain.

The highest temperature in London in April last year was 16 degrees Centigrade.

Weathermen predicted today that the heatwave will continue throughout the rest of the week.

Britain basks in high temperature

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Fatigue syndrome

CDC to probe

ATLANTA, April 30. (UPI): Prompted by a flood of complaints the federal Centers for Disease Control is launching a \$1 million investigation into a recently identified disease that leaves its victims weak and utterly exhausted.

Dr. Walter Gunn of the CDC said the federal health agency is setting up a nationwide surveillance system to learn how widespread the puzzling illness, dubbed chronic fatigue syndrome, may be.

"We took a tally to see how many people were calling the CDC," Gunn said in a recent interview. "The calls are running around a thousand a month over the past two months from people who think they have it."

"If we're getting a thousand calls a month, that's significant," he added. "We know that there's something going on out there."

Chronic fatigue syndrome, or CFS, first came to public attention about three years ago when up to 300 cases of extreme, persistent, unexplained fatigue were reported from Incline Village, a town near Reno, Nevada.

Since then, outbreaks have been reported in many other parts of the country.

"The kind of fatigue we're talking about is not what you feel on a Friday afternoon," Gunn said. "It is extreme, really debilitating fatigue. We got a call from one woman who said she couldn't even carry her baby across the room."

The disease is not known to be fatal, but there have been reports of a number of suicides by desperate victims, Gunn said.

Gunn said the CDC's research initially will include patients and physicians in four cities: Reno, Atlanta, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Wichita, Kansas.

Some 15 physicians in Atlanta will refer CFS patients to the CDC surveillance network, along with 47 doctors in Grand Rapids, 74 in Reno and 86 in Wichita.

"These are private physicians who have patients with severe fatigue that they don't understand," Gunn said. So far, Gunn said, 250 patients have been referred.

The CDC is working with a definition of CFS that involves 11 symptoms and three physical criteria that occur over a period of six months.

They include low-grade fever, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, unexplained generalised muscle weakness, muscle discomfort or myalgia, prolonged 24 hours or more of generalised fatigue after mild exercise, generalised headaches, migratory arthralgia without joint swelling or redness, neuropsychological complaints such as forgetfulness, excessive irritability, inability to concentrate and depression and sleep disturbances.

Gunn said references in popular media to CFS as a "yuppie disease" are "totally inaccurate."

"It hits all ages and people from all walks of life," Gunn said. "There doesn't seem to be any one socio-economic class. We're not looking at children (in the study), but some physicians say they are treating entire families that have it."

'Baby bomb'

Girl tries to smuggle

BELFAST, April 30. (Reuters): A teenage girl tried to smuggle a bomb into Belfast airport by pretending to be pregnant and hiding it under a maternity smock, police sources said today.

The bomb, containing several pounds (kg) of Czechoslovak-made semtex explosive, was strapped to the 17-year-old girl's stomach along with a detonator.

She was stopped when police set up a roadblock at the weekend outside Belfast international airport, one of the most tightly guarded in Europe.

The girl was arrested after police, apparently acting on intelligence from a well-placed informant, said Irish Republican Army guerrillas planned a major offensive.

A wave of bomb attacks duly hit the province over the weekend.

A bomb exploded at a border post at Newry, south of Belfast, on Sunday and the IRA said there were still two unexploded devices in the area.

Two motorists had a narrow escape when they drove over two bombs abandoned in a nearby road, while in the town of Dungannon army experts defused a huge 900-pound (360-kg) bomb found in a housing estate.

Security forces have been on full alert since Thursday when police issued their warning that the IRA was planning another offensive.

Greeks fail to elect president, vote Friday

ATHENS, April 30. (Reuters): The Greek Parliament failed today to elect a new president but older statesman Constantine Karamanlis, who guided Greece back to democracy in the 1970s, remained firm favourite to win the post.

Karamanlis, candidate for the ruling Conservative New Democracy Party, goes into a second round of voting on Friday with his party's 151 seat absolute majority almost certain to bring him victory.

No candidate of the three major parties in the 300-seat Parliament accumulated 180 votes needed to be elected to a five-year term as president in the first vote. On Friday, 151 votes will be needed for the post according to constitution.

New Democracy has an absolute majority of 151 seats after elections on April 8.

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Italian ferry sinks, 6 dead

TRAPANI, Sicily, April 30. (Reuters): A truck loaded with marble slabs overturned in the hold just before a ferry sank off the coast of Sicily yesterday with the loss of at least six lives, investigators said today.

Seven people from the 3,500-tonne Espresso-Trapani ferry were still missing but relatives said they had all but given up hope that rescue workers would find them alive.

"If they were alive they would have been picked up by now like the others. I fear my husband and son were trapped in the hold and had no chance of getting out," Antonia Di Natale told reporters.

Thirty-nine of the 52 Italian passengers and crew on board were rescued after the ferry sank less than 15 minutes after keeling over about three and a half miles off Trapani.

A preliminary report by Trapani harbour authorities, quoting survivors, said it appeared that a truck carrying marble had overturned while preparing to disembark and its load had crashed into some of the 60 other trucks on board.

The crew had reported stability problems, just before sending out a distress signal.

The ferry, carrying passengers, cars and lorries, had left Livorno in northern Italy on Saturday on a regular voyage to Trapani.

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INTERNATIONAL

Return of hijacker a victory for China

TOKYO, (Reuters): Japan's return of a hijacker to China in the face of international criticism is Beijing's first victory in its relations with the West since its military crackdown last June, diplomats and officials said.

They said this success gave China hope of achieving its next target — the end of official sanctions by the West and a return of confidence to foreign bankers and investors.

Zhang Zhenhai, who hijacked an airliner to Japan on Dec 16, was taken back to Beijing by Chinese securitymen on Saturday after Japan rejected pleas from US congressmen and Amnesty International not to repatriate him.

"This is China's first major diplomatic victory since June 4," an Asian diplomat said. "Its next objective is to persuade Japan to restore its official loans and end sanctions by Western governments."

"Its aim is not only to get back the credits but to win a vote of confidence, so that foreign firms and banks feel more comfortable doing business there," he said.

The loans and high-level political contacts were suspended in protest against the bloody military crackdown on student-led protest last June. While limited official and World Bank loans have resumed, most funds remain frozen, as do high-level political contacts.

To try to end the sanctions, China has chosen to pressure Japan, with some success. Some leaders of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have said Japan should resume lending, ahead of other Western countries.

One of those supporting China is Michio Watanabe, head of one of the LDP's largest factions, who is visiting Shanghai and Beijing this week. He is only the second LDP leader to go to China since the June crackdown.

Japan's business community wants the loans resumed. "Exports to China have been seriously affected by the cut-off," said a Japanese banker. "Business wanted the hijacker sent back, to remove what could have become a further obstacle."

But the loans remain suspended because of opposition within the Foreign Ministry which fears that any resumption would provoke an angry reaction from the US Congress, where anti-Beijing resentment remains high.

"For (Prime Minister Toshiki) Kaifu, the priority is good relations with Washington," said one government official. "He has made that the number one aim of his administration and does not want to jeopardise it over China."

He said Tokyo had urged Beijing to take conciliatory measures towards the West, such as releasing political prisoners and allowing dissident physicist Fang Liang, who last June took refuge in the US embassy in Beijing, to leave China.

The Asian diplomat said Washington and Beijing were close to an agreement over Fang in December and had got as far as writing the statement Fang was to sign as a condition of leaving.

"Then came the fall of Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu, which terrified China's leaders, and their position hardened. There is no sign of resolving the Fang issue now," he said.

A prominent Chinese dissident in Japan said top leader Deng Xiaoping was enraged that one of the leaders of last year's protests, Chai Ling, had escaped to France after 10 months on the run. It was out of the question Fang could be allowed to go.

In order to improve relations with Washington, however, Beijing could make small concessions, like fewer curbs on Western reporters, less vocal criticism of US policy towards Chinese students and willingness to discuss trade questions, he said.

Despite domestic criticism over human rights violations in China, President Bush has stressed the need to keep open lines of communication with Beijing and not to isolate it.

Another potential flashpoint is the "Goddess of Democracy," a dissident radio ship with a French crew which plans to beam anti-communist propaganda to China next month. Beijing has not ruled out the use of force against the vessel.

The Asian diplomat said nobody had expected the sanctions to last so long. "The Houston summit (of seven major industrial nations) in July would be the first possibility of ending them. But many feel Beijing has not done enough," he added.

China lifts martial law in Tibetan capital

BEIJING, April 30 (UPI): China announced today it would end nearly 14 months of martial law in the capital of Tibet, saying anti-Chinese unrest there had been subdued, but Western diplomats called the move cosmetic and cited reports of continued repression.

The lifting of martial law, to take effect today, was seen by Western analysts as a possible bid to improve relations with the United States, which has been critical of human rights abuses in China since June's crackdown on the democracy movement.

The official Xinhua news agency carried the announcement in an order signed by Premier Li Peng on behalf of the state council, China's cabinet, lifting martial law in the Tibetan capital city, Lhasa, and its environs as of today.

Li ordered martial law in Lhasa March 8, 1989, after several days of rioting by Tibetans demanding independence from Beijing. Dozens of people have been killed in anti-Chinese violence in Lhasa since unrest erupted anew in September 1987.

"In view of the fact that the situation in the city of Lhasa has become stable and social order has returned to normal, the task of enforcing martial law in the city has been successfully fulfilled," the premier's order said. No serious violence has been reported in Tibet since martial law was imposed. But Western diplomats said the lifting would be largely symbolic, since 300,000 Chinese troops are stationed there along with large detachments of paramilitary police.

"I can't see how this will be more than cosmetic," a Western diplomat said. "It's a grand public relations gesture."

The diplomats also cited recent reports of continued persecution of the Buddhist monks and nuns who have repeatedly led protests against Beijing. Reports from the region this year indicated persistent small protests in outlying towns.

There are signs of increasing religious repression, one diplomat said. China claims Tibet as its territory and has controlled the region since the Chinese Army occupation in 1950. Many of the 2 million Tibetans resent communist rule and hope for the return of the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled into exile to India in 1959 after an abortive armed rebellion against Beijing.

Western analysts viewed the martial law lifting as also intended to impress Washington, where critics in Congress have helped thwart President Bush's short-lived campaign to restore ties with Beijing, which plunged after the democracy movement crackdown in June.



Police beaten up

A young person helps a policeman who was beaten up by other protesting students in a Seoul demonstration on Saturday. More than 1,500 students, workers and regular citizens protested in sympathy with strikers at Hyundai Heavy Industries. A three-day strike was broken up on Saturday when police raided the company's giant shipyard in Ulsan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gurkhas patrol HK border

HONG KONG, (Reuters): A British army Gurkha soldier stands up to his knees in the murky waters of a disused duck farm, gazing intently in the direction of urban Hong Kong.

Just behind him snakes a slim, muddy ditch, more properly known as the Sham Chun river, which forms the bulk of the British colony's frontier with China.

The officer in charge of the day's sweep for illegal immigrants gestures towards the Gurkha. "Of course, he shouldn't really be standing up so we can see him, but it is quite quiet during the day."

Although the army is preparing to hand over the last of its border patrol duties to the Hong Kong police by October 1992, the British colony braces itself for its return to China in 1997, the never-ending battle of wits against illegal immigrants from China goes on.

Army figures show 409 people were intercepted at the border in March compared with only 204 in March last year.

"We don't really know what's causing the increase. But I think that at the moment in China a large body of young people is finding it hard to find work and they're on the move," Major Gordon Corrigan said.

Corrigan, second in command of the Sixth Queen's Own Gurkha Rifles in Hong Kong which is presently handling border security, reported increasingly bizarre means of getting past the five metre (17 feet) high wire-mesh fence, topped with barbed wire.

"We've come across the use of homemade ladders pole-vaulting, and even those gymnastic human pyramids," Corrigan said.

But the most common way of attempting to breach the border is still by cutting the fence. Corrigan said, and it has become an accomplished art. "If they just cut a hole in the fence and try and come through, the chances are we will catch them as it only takes about 30 seconds to get to any section of the fence," Corrigan said.

A more successful tactic is to cut out a section of the fence a few links at a time over several nights, and hide in China by day. The final snip takes only a few seconds, the gap opens and the "illegals" are through.

Call for troops 100 cut their way

HONG KONG, April 30, (Reuters): A sudden increase in the numbers of Vietnamese boat people breaking out of Hong Kong's camps and detention centres has revealed what local residents say are serious shortcomings in security and prompted calls for troops to be brought in.

Over 100 men, women and children cut their way through security fences at the vast Whitehead complex in the new territories on Saturday night, and by today only 24 had been rounded up.

Another 17 managed to get out of Cape Collinson last night. The camp, on Hong Kong island, is one of two used to house those who have agreed to return to Vietnam under the United Nations-backed voluntary repatriation programme.

The Shatin district board, an elected local body which includes the Whitehead area, said Saturday's break-out showed the colony's prison service was incapable of running the detention centre and demanded that the army be brought in.

"This shows the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is incapable of preventing similar incidents occurring in the future," said Shatin district board member Lau Kong-Wah.

But government officials were quick to reject suggestions that they call in some of the estimated 9,000 British soldiers based in Hong Kong, many of them Gurkhas.

British army tactics have become almost as ingenious as the methods being employed to outwit them. Soldiers speed up and down the length of the perimeter fence on army-issue BMX bicycles, produced as a child's stunt bike but perfect for the average Gurkha soldier, normally shorter than his British counterpart.

Corrigan said the speed and silence of the bikes make them difficult for the illegal immigrants to evade. "Some get away," Corrigan said. "One we missed recently was part of a group of four. We caught three but the man we missed was off like a racing snail."

Soldiers were unable to track him down in bushes on the hillsides and he got away. Corrigan himself prefers another mode of transport for making his rounds — he frequently hires a horse from a local stable and rides along the concrete service road next to the perimeter fence.

The 33-km (20-mile) fence includes an electronic sensor device and soldiers use thermal image equipment to spot illegal immigrants day and night.

Reports of new construction work in Hong Kong act as a magnet, drawing increasing numbers of Chinese hoping to profit from short-term casual labour in Hong Kong. The colony has a severe labour shortage but the government has resisted pleas from industry to ease immigration rules and grants legal entry only to a small casual labour force from China.

Border duty is often tedious but it has its moments of drama. One British officer recalls an occasion when an escaping illegal immigrant tried to run through a marshy area only to find himself stuck and sinking.

"He was completely submerged in mud by the time he was eventually wrenched out by an army helicopter. Officers gave him the kiss of life, flew him to the British military hospital and he was repatriated the next day," the officer said.

Vietnam celebrates low-key victory day

Party boss seeks American co-operation

HOCHIMINH CITY, April 30, (UPI): Vietnam's communists, facing economic difficulty and political uncertainty, today celebrated the 15th anniversary of their victory over the US-backed South Vietnamese government with traditional dragon dances and fireworks.

But officials said it was a lower-key celebration of the anniversary than in earlier years as the government concentrated more on establishing economic reforms and building up for the future.

Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party, told

United Press International that Vietnam wanted to forget the US involvement in the Vietnam war and renew relations. "We wish to forget the past and we wish to have co-operation with the American people and the American government," Linh said in an impromptu interview at the anniversary celebration.

Linh spoke in a park behind the presidential palace where a North Vietnamese tank smashed through the gates April 30, 1975, to end the 20-year struggle to reunite the country.

Island for Osaka airport sinking

TOKYO, April 30, (AP): One of Japan's biggest civil engineering projects, a man-made island being built for a new airport in Osaka Bay, is sinking much faster than expected, officials say.

Foreign construction firms were excluded from bidding for the massive landfill project to create the large artificial island, leading to friction between Japan and the United States. Airport officials said the project could be properly handled only by Japanese firms.

The nationally circulated newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported today that the Kansai International Airport Co. had decided to add an additional 17 million cubic metres (600 million cubic feet) of landfill, or about 10 per cent more than the original plan, to control the sinking. It said the extra landfill would cost about 20 billion yen (\$127 million).

Officials responsible for construction of the 1-trillion-yen (\$6.3-billion) airport were not available today because of a national holiday. But Kenji Sugitani, an airport spokesman, recently said parts of the island had sunk between 7.5 and 8 metres (24.6 and 26.25 feet) since last August, and were still sinking.

"Previously, landfill projects in Japan have been extensions of existing (natural) land and have been limited generally to depths of about 10 metres (33 feet)," Sugitani said. "So we haven't had any experience or data dealing with a project like this one, which is five kilometres (three miles) away from the nearest land and 18 metres (60 feet) deep."

The artificial island is being built in Osaka Bay to reduce the possibility of opposition from nearby residents. Tokyo's Narita airport was vehemently opposed by local farmers and anti-government radicals.

In trade talks between the United States and Japan, the airport came to symbolise the custom in Japanese construction projects of limiting bidding to certain designated companies and the practice of consultation among construction companies to fix bidding terms. Such collusive business practices keep out foreign firms, US officials said.

Goddess of Democracy Ship braces bad weather

SINGAPORE, April 30, (AP): The Goddess of Democracy, a radio ship planning to beam pro-democracy messages to China, is due in Singapore on Wednesday, a representative of the sponsors said today.

"We have been in contact with the vessel during the weekend. It encountered bad weather and storms on its way to Singapore," Sabrice Rebois said in a telephone interview from Paris.

The ship originally was to have arrived in Singapore last Monday, he said.

Asked if Singapore's government had given permission for the vessel to pick up supplies, Rebois said, "Yes, the Singapore government had said it was a free country and a free port."

Asked when the vessel would leave Singapore and arrive in Taiwan for a planned refuelling stop before starting its planned broadcasting from international waters, he said, "We cannot tell you, for security reasons."

The 1,200-ton Goddess of Democracy left France on March 17. It plans to broadcast music, news and pro-democracy reports to China from off the coast.

It is sponsored by a coalition of groups headed by the French news magazine Actuel and backed by the Federation for a Democratic China, a Paris-based dissident organisation.

China has refused to rule out the use of force to stop the planned broadcasts. It also has labelled Taiwan's plan to help the ship "an open provocation."

against the Chinese communist government in Beijing. "The activities of this ship are aimed at subverting the people's government and are against the norms of international relations," China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Li Jinhua said at a news conference in Beijing on April 19.

"Therefore we cannot tolerate the support of that ship," she said.

"No request has been received from the Goddess of Democracy to enter the port," a spokeswoman for the port of Singapore authority said.

"Singapore is a free port and we are open to any ship calling at our port as long as it does not violate our law or threaten our national security," said the spokeswoman.

Organisers behind planned broadcasts today rejected Beijing's claim that the mission was illegal.

"We will proceed exactly as we planned," said Christophe Nick, a French journalist and one of the originators of the project.

The official Xinhua news agency said yesterday that Taiwan's willingness to assist the vessel was an "open provocation" against China. It is "totally illegal for the so-called Goddess of Democracy ship to broadcast on high seas toward the Chinese mainland," the Xinhua commentary added.

"That's absolutely crazy," said Nick. "The Chinese are trying to make up new international regulations."

Khmer official killed

BANGKOK, April 30, (AP): A senior Khmer Rouge official was killed when a tree fell on him in a storm near the Thai border in Cambodia, Western diplomats on the border said today.

Sim Son, in charge of civilian affairs for the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, was killed last Wednesday at the group's headquarters in Nong Fru, the diplomat said.

Sim Son was cremated yesterday in a traditional Buddhist ceremony attended by more than 200 Khmer Rouge supporters.

Among those at the funeral

was Ieng Sary, who along with Pol Pot is regarded as the architect of the Khmer Rouge reign of terror in Cambodia during the 1970s.

It was Ieng Sary's first public appearance in more than two years, diplomats in Bangkok said.

Also attending were at least two other senior officials — Khieu Thirith, Ieng Sary's wife, and Thionn Thionn, both former politburo members and ministers during the Khmer Rouge's rule from 1975-1978.

He called for an end to an American embargo or aid and trade with Vietnam, admitting that Vietnam faced "many difficulties."

Linh said the anniversary marked the end of more than a century of colonialism, division and war as well as the victory over the US-backed government of South Vietnam.

"In the face of the extremely complicated international situation a struggle to defend and develop socialism is unfolding in a fierce manner," President Vo Chi Cong told a ceremony at the former presidential palace. "We are convinced that socialism will surmount all trials."

Communist leaders and specially invited guests listened to speeches and watched an exhibition of dragon dances, fireworks and the music of Vietnam's ethnic minority.

Syndrome

Ho Chi Minh City Mayor Nguyen Vinh Nghiep told the meeting, attended by several top leaders, that even 15 years after the defeat of the US-backed South Vietnamese forces, its impact was felt in international politics, particularly in the United States.

"The United States still suffers from the Vietnam syndrome," he said.

But in the face of the political upheavals affecting the socialist world, he said stability and control were needed if this impoverished nation of 65 million people was to develop.

The Doi Moi (renovation) policy would not be able to continue if there was instability, he said.

The main streets of the city, which saw a hectic exodus of US personnel on April 15, 1975, when communist tanks broke South Vietnamese lines, were hung with bright red national flags.

"It all seems like a dream, a had dream when we think about the end of the war," said a former air force security officer.

The officer recalled that he had been ordered to stand guard at Tan Son Nhut airport on the final day of the war.

"I watched as my commander got on a plane and flew away, leaving us all behind," he said.

The officer, who asked not to be identified, said all he hoped for now was to go to the United States with his wife, an American fathered by an American early in the war.

Gen. Tran Van Tra, commander of the communist forces that captured what was then Saigon, said the victory was glorious, but he called for new contacts with American veterans of the Vietnam war.

Tra, vice chairman of a newly established Vietnam Veterans Association, said his group wanted relations with veterans of the United States and former South Vietnamese forces "in order to promote peace."

Problems

In a speech at the anniversary celebration, the outspoken general emphasised the economic and political problems still facing the country.

Tra, who has occasionally criticised the Communist Party, said major mistakes had been made after the victory, such as trying to force the country to adapt to socialism too quickly.

After the ceremony, he told UPI the country had to fight corruption, excessive bureaucracy, theft of government property, incompetence and lack of democracy.

"We must work for democratisation, but it must be democratisation in good order," he said.

Tra said he was worried that if political change moved too fast the Vietnamese Communist Party could go the way of communist parties in Eastern Europe.

'Are you American? Please take this.' One year after crackdown, dissent still finds a voice

BEIJING, (UPI): "Are you American? please take this," the middle-aged intellectual whispered to a foreign student on a Beijing college campus, slipping him a thin sheet of paper.

The mysterious document was a brief but eloquent poem commemorating the victims of the Chinese army's violent crackdown last June on the pro-democracy movement.

Signed "The teachers of Beijing universities," the tribute was dated April 15 — the first anniversary of the student-led protests, which erupted after the death April 15, 1989, of the liberal former Chinese Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang.

Like many such silent expressions of protest, the poem condemned China's leaders for ordering the army to fire on unarmed demonstrators, but ended on a hopeful note: "People will rise to greet the rising sun, and together build a new Beijing."

A year after Chinese from all walks of life took to the streets to demand a more open political system and an end to official corruption, China's hardline government appears to have the upper

hand.

A continuing crackdown has snuffed out nearly all opportunities for dissent. Those who dare protest, as did eight students last December at a government ministry, are met with astonished stares by passersby and quickly hauled off by police.

But resentment still simmers beneath the surface in Beijing, where determined residents are finding outlets for their anger despite the high risk involved.

Their expressions of dissent range from an anonymous poem to an impassioned 56-page treatise on socialism's worldwide demise.

Of the night of June 3-4, when the army attacked Tiananmen Square, the heart of the movement, a student wrote angrily: "Tanks and guns could not replace the truth: the blood on the avenue of eternal peace mercilessly declared the bankruptcy of socialist political theory."

Hundreds and perhaps thousands were killed when troops stormed down the Avenue of Eternal Peace, the city's main east-west thorough-

fare, on their way to the square.

Other students and Beijing residents, including government officials, say they have safely "quarried away" democracy propaganda and pictures chronicling the movement and its bloody dismantling.

"I'm saving it for the day the verdict is reversed," said a former activist.

The author of the 56-page tome, titled "Socialism is dying a slow death," is a frail, bespectacled student whose close friends are now in prison for their involvement in last spring's protests.

The failure of the socialist economy has determined the fate of the political system. People don't wish to live as they did before, and rulers are not able to dominate as they once did. Thus, revolution breaks out," he wrote.

"Do you think anyone in Hong Kong would publish this?" the student asked wistfully.

Another would-be author is a 24-year-old university graduate who compiled a lengthy expose of official corruption, with separate chapters on bribery, graft, profligating and special

privilege. Each case is illustrated with specific examples.

Still others, longing to expose the system's injustices, write of the mistreatment of the thousands arrested last June. One report by a graduate student, based on interviews with students and citizens released from prison, described rampant police abuses.

"Many people who were arrested had no opportunity of seeing any kind of legal documentation such as an arrest warrant or detention form," it said.

"Most were first subject to beatings with fists, nightsticks, rifle butts and leather belts, and only then were they interrogated. They were kept awake for long periods of time until they reached a state of total exhaustion," the report said.

Some people were arrested simply for possessing pro-democracy propaganda, or because they were wounded June 3-4, which proved they had been out on the streets.

Finally, there is the occasional extremist who advocates violence as the only way to change the system.

Merger talks begin in Bonn

EAST BERLIN, April 30, (AP) — East Germany wants to limit foreign ownership of its state-run industries and sell a 50 per cent interest in the factories to its citizens, a newspaper reported today.

Delegations from both Germanys began meeting in Bonn today to discuss merging their national economies and social institutions, a move they hope to complete by July 2.

Among East Germany's demands is a proposal that its citizens retain at least half ownership in the 8,000 enterprises that now are state-owned, an East German official was quoted as saying today.

The proposal apparently is aimed at countering East German fears that West German and foreign interests will completely take over their formerly communist-run economy once it is converted to a free-market system.

Peter Moreth, the East German trustee for public property, said in an interview with the West German newspaper Die Welt that the government wants East Germans to be able to buy investment certificates in each nationalised industry.

He said the certificates would be redeemable after three years. East German companies also would be able to sell ownership shares to employees, he said.

Foreign ownership in each East German enterprise would be limited to 50 per cent and go to the highest bidder, he said in the interview.

Obsolete
He estimated the value of East German industries after the economic merger at 300 billion West German marks (\$178 billion).

There was no immediate reaction from West Germany, which wants the ailing East German economy to be transformed to a Western-style capitalist system.

Many East German factories are obsolete and likely to close after the two countries merge their economies, because they won't be able to compete without government subsidies, officials and analysts have said.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere and the government of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl disagree over how to divide the costs of uniting the two countries.

East Germany wants to maintain some government subsidies and protections for its workers as the nation shifts from a communist economy to a Western-style system.

West Germany has said it will trade most East German marks for West German marks at a 1:1 exchange rate, but wants to trade private savings accounts of more than 4,000 marks (\$2,300) at a 2:1 rate. East Germany is demanding a higher ceiling for savings accounts.

West German officials said over the weekend that East Germany should not press for more financial concessions because they could lead to higher West German taxes and erode the power of the strong West German mark.

Kohl indirectly chided East Germans, implying they want to achieve prosperity through negotiations, rather than hard work.

"We must also say that the prosperity in West Germany did not fall from heaven, but came from work," he said in a speech in Saarbrücken, West Germany.

In addition to the economic differences, wide disagreement exists over the role of a united Germany in the NATO and Warsaw Pact military alliances.

De Maiziere met in Moscow yesterday with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, but the two failed to settle disagreements over whether a united Germany could be part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Healing
Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher said yesterday that German unification would heal the division of Europe caused by the Second World War.

"German unification is more than the introduction of the Deutsch mark in East Germany," Genscher told West Germany's Channel One television.

Soviets downed own MiG-19

Red Star reveals on 1960 American U-2 incident

MOSCOW, April 30, (AP) — The Soviet Army newspaper disclosed for the first time yesterday that when the Russians downed a U.S. spy plane 30 years ago they also destroyed one of their own fighters that was pursuing the American U-2.

The U-2, piloted by Francis Gary Powers, was shot down on May 1, 1960, disrupting a summit meeting 19 days later in Paris between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev and forcing the cancellation of another summit planned for later that year.

Red Star, the Soviet Army newspaper, said the Soviets lost a MiG-19 and its pilot in the operation. The paper also disclosed for the first time that the Soviets sent up a new fighter plane and ordered its pilot to ram the U-2 in a suicide mission. The new fighter reached the U-2's altitude but failed to ram it.

The article, published three days before this year's May Day festivities, may have been intended to remind Soviet readers that US actions have damaged superpower ties in the past. In recent days, Soviet officials have warned that relations might suffer if Washington imposes sanctions on Moscow in retaliation for its crackdown on the breakaway republic of Lithuania.

Red Star said that Khrushchev was atop Lenin's

mausoleum on Red Square watching the May Day parade when he learned that a new model Soviet SA-2 surface-to-air missile had brought down the U-2.

The commander of the Soviet Air Defence Forces, Marshal Sergei Biryuzov, climbed the mausoleum "carrying happy news, that the plane had been hit by the first rocket," the article said. "And Khrushchev, standing right there on the tribune, congratulated the marshal."

Khrushchev, in memoirs smuggled to the West and published in 1974, wrote that diplomats watching the parade knew something big had happened because Biryuzov wore a duty uniform rather than the parade dress worn by the other military officers in Red Square.

Soviets hurrying to the May Day parade in the Ural mountain city of Sverdlovsk saw a far different sight, what appeared to be fireworks high in the air, said the article, signed by a Col A Dokuchayev.

The fiery debris was not fireworks, but a Soviet MiG-19 that was hit by the same type of missile that exploded behind power's U-2 and damaged it, Red Star said in the most detailed version of the Soviet military action.

Power's mission began in Pakistan and was to

have carried him over Sverdlovsk for a landing in Norway.

He used neither the automatic destruction device nor a poison pin he had been given in case the mission failed, and was captured at a collective farm near Sverdlovsk. He was held for three years, then exchanged for the Soviet spy Rudolph Abel. Powers published his memoirs in 1970.

The Soviet article disclosed for the first time that the Soviets had ordered a new model Sukhoi-9 fighter to pursue the U-2 in an unsuccessful ramming attempt. The SU-9 was unarmed, but was able to reach nearly to the 70,000 feet (21,000 metres) at which the U-2 operated, the report said.

The Soviets also scrambled two MiG-19's, which were not capable of flying that high. The pilot of one MiG-19, Boris Ivazyan, reported to ground control that the debris from the U-2 was actually that from an SA-2 that had missed the U-2, prompting the ground battery to fire another.

The next Soviet missile struck the MiG-19 flown by Sergei Safronov, 30, who was killed. He was one of 21 Soviets given medals for their role in bringing down Powers, and the Red Star article disclosed for the first time that he was honoured posthumously. Ivazyan survived and later married Safronov's widow.

We'll suspend independence

Lithuanian moves to gain talks

COPENHAGEN, April 30, (Agencies) — Lithuania is ready to freeze its March 11 declaration of independence in order to bring Moscow to the negotiating table, Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas said in an interview published today.

As a starting point, we will provisionally suspend our independence and ask for negotiations with Moscow on which of the laws we have passed damages Moscow's interests," Ozolas was quoted as saying in a telephone interview with the Danish newspaper Berlingske Tidende.

"I am convinced our proposal is acceptable to both (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev and to the West, especially against the background of the latest signals from Moscow."

"All we ask is that western countries monitor negotiations to encourage the Soviet Union not to cheat and use force."

No change

Lithuania blockade

WASHINGTON, April 30, (UPI) — Lithuania President Vytautas Landsbergis said in an interview yesterday that he had seen no evidence of Moscow easing its blockade against the rebel republic.

"Nothing has been connected, nor has there been any increase in the supply of oil. There was also a promise that the gas supply would be increased, but that has not happened," he told NBC television news in an interview from Vilnius.

The production manager of a chemical plant at Janava, 55 miles (90 km) northwest of Vilnius, earlier said Moscow had promised to step up gas supplies which had been cut by the blockade, but the manager said so far there has been no increase.

Amid signs that the Kremlin might be ready to negotiate a political solution to the crisis caused by Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence, Landsbergis said he was "prepared for any possible compromise."

A spokesman for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced on Saturday that the Kremlin leader no longer insisted that the declaration be rescinded, removing a major obstacle to breaking the seven-week-old deadlock.

Although Landsbergis denied



Landsbergis

he was angry with the United States for failing to come to Lithuania's aid, he told NBC he believed the Soviet blockade could be brought to an end "if the countries of the West demand it."

Later on Sunday, Lithuania's Prime Minister, Kazimiera Prunskiene told reporters upon her arrival in Canada that the worst was over in the crisis with Moscow.

"The crisis peaked sometime last week. At the moment, the situation appears to be stabilising," she said through a translator at Montreal's Mirabel airport.

Police entry into embassy protested

ATHENS, April 30, (UPI) — Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras sent a strong protest to Albania after five security men forcibly entered Greece's embassy compound in Tirana and dragged away a man seeking political asylum, the Foreign Ministry said today.

The incident occurred yesterday when an unidentified young man entered the embassy compound calling for help and saying he sought political asylum. Five Albanian security men followed him into the premises, beat him severely and dragged him away, officials said.

Greek Ambassador Spyros Dokianot and the entire embassy staff witnessed the incident and the ambassador immediately protested to the Tirana authorities.

Samaras, who returned to Athens late Sunday from the European Economic Community summit in Dublin, summoned the Albanian Charge d'Affaires and sent a second

strong protest to Tirana about the unauthorized entry of the security men into the embassy compound.

The name and other details of the young asylum seeker were not immediately available.

The incident followed one which occurred in early March when Sotiris Antoniou, an ethnic Greek Albanian, entered the embassy in Tirana and sought political asylum.

Two days later members of the Sigurimi, or Albanian security police, tried to enter the embassy to drag him out, but embassy employees stopped them, and two of the employees were injured in the scuffle.

Antoniou was eventually allowed to fly to Athens days later.

Two weeks ago Bernard Kici, 38, an Albanian Catholic from Shkodra in northern Albania, entered the embassy and sought asylum, saying he wanted political freedom as well as freedom to practice his religion.

Prospects for a breakthrough in the six-week impasse emerged on Saturday after the Kremlin said it would accept the idea of the rebel republic freezing its March 11 declaration of independence instead of rescinding it.

"What should take place is that (Lithuania) should not insist its implementation," a spokesman for Gorbachev told journalists.

Moscow recently tightened an economic blockade of the rebel republic aimed at forcing it to return to the Soviet fold. It has now halted coal shipments, after cutting food, oil and natural gas supplies and stopping shipments of raw materials.

There were reports at the weekend, however, that Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov had ordered a sharp increase in natural gas supplies to the Azot chemical plant in Janava, 90 km (60 miles) northwest of Vilnius.

The paper quoted sources close to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis as saying his government would be prepared to freeze its declaration of independence for two years.

Landsbergis said at the weekend he welcomed Moscow's comments as "constructive and worthy of careful consideration."

Moscow is particularly alarmed about three laws passed after March 11. The laws would exempt Lithuanians from Soviet conscription, prepare to introduce identity cards and take over property claimed by the small pro-Moscow Communist Party.

Thousands of defiant Lithuanians have taken to the streets in support of independence as signs emerged of a possible way out of the rebel republic's seven-week-old deadlock with Moscow.

Ten thousand people packed the cathedral square in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius late yesterday to hear Landsbergis's ninth symphony, which Landsbergis has turned into the independence movement's unofficial anthem.

"Beethoven's symphony represents hope and freedom and victory," Rita Dakus, spokeswoman for the Lithuanian parliament's information office, said from the capital.

At the end of the one-hour performance, broadcast in towns and villages across the republic, the emotional crowd broke into spontaneous shouts of "Lithuania," witnesses said.

Earlier yesterday, several thousand cyclists rallied in the city centre to show their resolve in the face of the Kremlin's blockade of energy supplies which has left motorists stranded and forced lay-offs at factories.

Lithuania proclaimed its independence on March 11, while Estonia has announced its own step-by-step drive to sovereignty.

Gorby, Lothar disagree on Nato

MOSCOW, April 30, (AP) — East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere says he failed to allay Soviet concerns about a united Germany's membership in Nato, but that a meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev was "very constructive."

De Maiziere met with the Soviet president for two hours yesterday at the Kremlin.

Afterward, the Soviet news agency Tass said Gorbachev "maintains a negative attitude to the one-sided imbalance proposal for the inclusion of the future united German government in Nato."

Tass said it was paraphrasing Gorbachev's remarks.

De Maiziere said membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was possible "if Nato develops a new strategy."

Still, De Maiziere said the meeting would facilitate German reunification.

De Maiziere, accompanied by his ministers of defence, foreign affairs and economics, were in Moscow for a day of talks preceding negotiations on German reunification May 5 in Bonn, West Germany.

Representatives of the two Germanys as well as the four victorious World War II allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — will participate in the talks.

The West says a united Germany should be a member of Nato.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze said in an interview published on Saturday in Ireland that a united Germany should be non-aligned, and could belong to both the Western alliance and the Warsaw Pact.

De Maiziere has said he opposes German neutrality, and also stationing Nato soldiers on East German territory until a new all-European security system can be arranged.

German neutrality "would be contrary to the spirit of the times, corresponding instead to the old mentality of blocs," he told Tass in East Berlin on Saturday.

On Sunday, however, he did not say what a European security system should look like, but did say it should also guarantee Soviet security.

"Gorbachev did not accept our Nato proposal, so other solutions will have to be found," he said.

Tass said Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri T. Yazov told his East German counterpart, Rainer Eppelmann, "a united Germany's membership in Nato may influence the balance of forces in Europe and destabilise international relations."

Economic relations with a united Germany and ensuring Soviet security are Moscow's principal concerns. East Germany has been a key member of the Warsaw Pact military alliance, and an important trading partner for the Soviet Union.

'Short-range N weapons will remain'

BRUSSELS, April 30, (Reuters) — Nato will keep short-range nuclear weapons despite major changes in East-West relations, its top commander in Europe said in an interview published today.

General John Galvin, supreme allied commander Europe, told the Belgian armed forces magazine Forum the 16-nation alliance agreed nuclear weapons would still be needed to help keep peace.

"Even though the alliance leadership is optimistic on our ability to cut the total number of weapons, it is also very clear that we will not eliminate short-range nuclear systems entirely," he said.

Nato sources said last week the alliance would scrap controversial plans to modernise short-range missiles in Europe and probably unilaterally withdraw hundreds of nuclear artillery



Demonstration in Bucharest

A Romanian boy sits on his father's shoulders amid a crowd of anti-government demonstrators on the sixth day in Bucharest Central University Square. (Reuters wirephoto)

Profile

Dr Kouchner

Human rights campaigner

PARIS, April 30, (AP) — Dr Bernard Kouchner has become the French government's human-rights commando, rushing to hot spots with cameras close behind.

He turned up in television newscasts around the world during the Romanian revolution in December, one of the few Western officials on the embattled streets of Bucharest.

A month later, the 50-year-old physician crossed the lines of warring Christians in Beirut, a truckload of journalists in tow, to arrange the evacuation of 17 wounded people to French hospitals.

Early in April, he organized a gathering of doctors, scientists and intellectuals in Krakow, Poland, to explore Eastern Europe's need for what he calls "human rights in action."

"It's easy to sign a declaration of human rights," said Kouchner, a founder of the medical relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres, also known as Doctors Without Borders. "Putting them into action, that's more difficult."

His official title is Secretary of State for Humanitarian Action and he reports directly to Premier Michel Rocard.

The office has counterparts in other nations, but Kouchner's flamboyance is singular.

Kouchner and the 10 other idealistic young doctors who founded Doctors Without Borders in 1971 dedicated themselves to caring for victims in the world's trouble spots.

Among places they could be found were the Thai-Cambodian border, Lebanon and Africa's famine belt.

Eventually, Kouchner left the group and formed a rival organization called Doctors of the World. Its first major mission was saving Vietnamese boat people with a merchant ship that plucked ill, weary refugees from their rickety craft and carried them to refugee camps.

Kouchner invited journalists along and got extensive coverage. The publicity has continued, and he has been accused of grandstanding.

A journalist on the Lebanon trip wrote a humorous piece about how many times Kouchner adjusted his tie before the cameras rolled.

In the interview, Kouchner said: "There can be no human intervention without communication. I'm not in favour of this, but these are modern times."

He entered the government after the socialists returned to power in 1985. They inherited a human rights ministry from Jacques Chirac, the departing conservative prime minister.

The ministry was Chirac's answer to the human rights flag waved by the left, especially Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist president. Chirac had put Kouchner's old rival, Malburet, in charge.

Mitterrand prefers to address human rights himself and abolished the ministry, which Kouchner said was fine with him.

"Human rights is a private activity against the government," he said in the interview. "It was impossible for Malburet."

"From my position, I can protest when my government violates human rights, but I don't have to resign. If I were in charge, I'd have to resign."

Kouchner has focused his office on the activities he relishes: feeding refugees, comforting earthquake victims, patching up the wounded. He has only a small staff, however, and acknowledges that groups like Doctors Without Borders and Doctors of the World do the real emergency work. He sees himself as a public figure with a high profile whose presence can attract media attention and help aid efforts.

'Short-range N weapons will remain' European army project

MADRID, April 30, (Kunat) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez today said that there was a project within the framework of the European union to establish a one European army.

Speaking over Spanish state-run radio just two days after the EEC summit conference wound up in the Irish capital of Dublin, Ordonez said that the unity of the European policy is going ahead but slowly.

He added that those countries tend to achieve the confederation and not the federalism, noting that "most of us will not live to see that come true."

Ordonez indicated that the march toward political unity for the 12-nation group takes into consideration that this number would increase in future to more than 15 countries, citing interest of several East European countries to join the EEC.

It would concentrate more on air-launched missiles and bombs in the future, they said.

Most of those missiles and artillery shells, with a range of less than 500 km (300 miles), are based in West Germany and could hit only German soil or countries in Eastern Europe.

The arrival of democracy in Eastern Europe and the prospect

of German unification made modernisation impossible, they said.

"The presence of nuclear weapons is one of the principal reasons that peace has reigned in Europe for the past 40 years," said Galvin, an American. "Conventional weapons by themselves have never deterred war."

Romania protest spreads to cities

BUCHAREST, April 30, (UPI) — Demonstrations by more than 35,000 people in at least four Romanian cities climaxed a week of protests aimed at driving out the communists and the security police that remain in power.

The largest of the rallies yesterday occurred in Timisoara, where some 20,000 anti-communist protesters gathered in the centre of the city. Demonstrations last December in Timisoara sparked the revolution that led to the ouster and execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Protesters chanted for the removal from power of remaining communists and for members of the disbanded security police to be refused candidacy in the May 20 elections.

The new round of protests began a week ago in Bucharest, where 15,000 people gathered in University Square to criticise interim President Ion Iliescu and celebrate his failure to prevent their demonstrations.

A banner was hung across the square proclaiming it a "neo-communist free zone," and demonstrators urged mass protests daily until the election.

Iliescu last week described the protesters as "hooligans" and tried to use the military to disperse them, but he was defeated by Romania's interim Parliament, the provisional council for national unity.

He said yesterday that the 11,500 protesters in Timisoara, Bucharest and two other Romanian cities actually were efforts to postpone the May 20 elections rather than to prevent members of the old communist structure from running.

Iliescu, who served as a government official under Ceausescu before falling out of favour, said the protesters wanted to postpone the elections until the fall, "even at the cost of destabilising the state," the official Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, reported.

The orderly protest in Timisoara was organised by the newly formed National Alliance for the Defence of the Timisoara Revolution, Tanjug said.

The alliance included representatives of the Peasants' Christian Democratic Party, the National Liberal Party, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, the Social-Democratic Party and the Fronte-National political party union, the agency said.

Vatican to resume ties

VATICAN CITY, April 30, (AP) — The Vatican and Romania have decided to re-establish diplomatic relations after a 40-year break, the Vatican said today.

No date was given but papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro said it will be soon.

The fall of the hardline communist governments in central and eastern Europe over the past year has allowed the Vatican to expand its influence in the region.

With the exception of Romania, the Holy See has restored official ties with all countries that had cut relations after the communists came to power after World War II.

Pope John Paul II's native Poland, which is predominantly Roman Catholic, restored ties last July. Hungary did so in February and Czechoslovakia re-established relations earlier this month, two days before the Pope paid a historic visit to the country.

Latvian Front claims majority despite poll setback

MOSCOW, April 30, (Reuters) — The Latvian Popular Front has failed to capture six seats needed for full control of the republic's Parliament, but says it has enough support from other groups to push through its independence programme.

Official results from a second round of voting, broadcast on Latvian television today, showed that Popular Front candidates had won four of 17 remaining seats.

The Front now controls 128 seats in the republic's 201-seat Parliament but the proposed changes require two-thirds support, or 134 votes.

"In practice, we have the majority we need," said Janis Jurkans, chairman of the Front's foreign relations committee. "He will proclaim independence with the support of other, smaller groups."

The first round of voting was on March 18, with leading candidates proceeding to second vote if none received at least 50 per cent of votes. A two-thirds majority is needed for all constitutional changes. A simple majority is sufficient for other issues.

The new Parliament, which convenes on May 3, is expected to approve aid for breakaway Lith-

uania, target of tough Kremlin economic sanctions designed to return it to the Soviet fold.

Estonia has already announced its defiance of Moscow's blockade, pledging to continue deliveries to its Baltic neighbour.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, all independent nations between the First and Second World Wars, were annexed by Moscow in 1940 under the terms of a secret pact with the Nazis.

Lithuania proclaimed its independence on March 11, while Estonia has announced its own step-by-step drive to sovereignty.

INTERNATIONAL/MIDEAST

Moscow sit-in to demand housing

MOSCOW, April 30, (AP)—Kind-eyed and smiling, Vladimir I. Lenin looks down from his standard-issue picture on an unlikely scene at a municipal office: A jumble of self-absorbed toddlers, bottles and cellophane food packages, piles of clothing and chairs pushed together to form beds.

Frustrated with the government's inability to relieve the housing shortage, a score of families on April 15 took over a conference room on the second floor of the government and party headquarters in Moscow's Kiev district. The protesters, who include teachers, labourers, architects, artists and engineers, have been living there ever since.

"We won't leave here until each of us gets the key to a big, new apartment," said Katya Belyakova, a mother of three. Housing shortages are one of the most severe ways in which the Soviet Union's economic problems touch the lives of citizens. An often-quoted figure indicates that about one in five Soviets does not have his own house or apartment and must share living quarters.

In the mid-1980s, President Mikhail Gorbachev and the leadership launched a much-balded plan to give every Soviet his own place to live by the year 2000.

Nowhere

But like many other reforms, this one is getting nowhere while the list of people waiting for housing gets longer. Supplies of building materials are uncertain, and residents of may run-down apartments in the heart of Moscow are being moved out to the new buildings that are finished so the downtown structures can be rebuilt.

Mrs Belyakova, her husband three children live in a communal apartment with three other families. The other families often quarrel over use of the single toilet and other facilities, she said. Her neighbours pinch, push and shout at her children if they catch them in the apartment's corridor.

The protesting families, each have three or more children. Largely because of the country's chronic housing shortages, many parents limit themselves to one child or perhaps two.

According to Soviet law, the size of their families entitles them to new housing no more than three years after they apply, but many of the protesters have been cramping five or more people in a single room for years with no hope of improvement.

Now, their children run in the solemn, empty hallways of the Moscow office building. Their parents write statements, seek meetings with officials, make posters and plan strategy. Protesters come and go freely, but at night a minimum of 15 adults and some of the children settle in to sleep.

Trying
District officials have not tried to shoo them away, and say they are trying to help the families gain apartments in a new six-story building originally intended for officials of the Communist Party central committee bureaucracy.

Anatoly A. Shehukin a deputy to the district government chairman, said in an interview that he understands the families' predicament, and there has been a minimum of conflict during the two-week sit-in. The protesters are allowed to use the dining hall in the white, square party and government headquarters.

But he said the protesters should not have brought their children along. He said he has told them: "The children are here for no reason. It is your right to strike, to determine your own future, but when you bring your children here, even for the best reason, you injure the child."

Two representatives of the protesters met with an official of the Moscow city council on Friday, and came away with hope that the city would agree to turn over the new six-story building to the Kiev district for its housing needs.

The building, after it was featured in Soviet media reports, became an embarrassment first to the Communist Party that commissioned it, and then to the Supreme Soviet legislature that was going to use it to house deputies when they are in town.

But even if the building is turned over regional authorities, Shehukin said it would be several months before the transfer could be made formally and the finishing work done.

Even then, the 56 apartments available would do little to solve the district's housing needs.

In 1990, the district government that oversees services for 166,000 people does not expect to be able to add to the number of apartments it has available, Shehukin said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Crowds defy lava to hold mass: An overflow crowd defied advancing lava to celebrate mass at Star of the Sea church on Sunday.

The Roman Catholic church was filled beyond capacity for Sunday mass, perhaps the last to be celebrated at its current site.

Among those attending the mass were Edmund and Agnes Kaawaloa, the first couple married in the church 50 years ago. Kaawaloa, 73, helped build the church when he was a boy.

Following the service, about 50 parishioners met to debate the merits of moving the wooden structure known as the painted church, because of the Biblical scenes depicted on its inside walls. Movers have offered to donate their services to relocate the church. (AP)

110 held for disturbances: Revelers hurled rocks and bottles and police responded with tear gas during two nights of disturbances at a University festival, police said Sunday in San Luis, Obispo, California.

At least 20 people were injured and 110 arrested. The confrontations between partiers and police on Friday and Saturday nights occurred during the 58th annual "Poly Royal" celebration at California Polytechnic State University.

Numerous homes and vehicles were damaged during the two nights of violence, authorities reported. Police said they made 30 arrests Friday, and 80 on Saturday.

Twelve police officers were injured on Friday, one of them suffering a broken arm, and at least six people required medical treatment, authorities said. The worst of the disturbances happened Friday night, when windows at a liquor store were smashed and terrified employees threw full champagne bottles at a crowd that shouted "free beer, free beer," while trying to get in. The crowd threw back empty beer bottles. (AP)

Calm reported at Indian camp: A roadblock by native American Indians came down and quiet prevailed Sunday at an upstate Indian encampment where a gun-wielding man confronted state troopers who came to arrest him for his involvement in the shooting down of an army helicopter.

The roadblock at the entrance to Ganienkeh Encampment came down early Sunday, hours after the Saturday night confrontation. No injuries were reported.

The incident took place about 40 miles (65 km) east of the St. Regis Reservation, where battles between pro- and anti-casino gambling Indians have erupted in violence in the past two months.

On Saturday, a diabetic Indian presumed killed in a gun battle earlier in the week, emerged from the woods in good condition after surviving on a diet of bark and cedar wood. (UPI)

Haitian protest: About 1,000 Haitians massed outside an alien detention centre Sunday, tearing down a fence and calling on immigration officials to release their countrymen.

A special riot control team of 79 Immigration and Naturalisation Service officers was deployed to hold back the protesters as they crashed through one gate and advanced on another, said INS district director Richard Smith.

The protesters heeded warnings to stop and no injuries or arrests were reported at the Krome service processing centre, 25 miles (40 kilometres) west of Miami, authorities said. (AP)

Europe

UK police corruption: At least 40 cases of alleged violence, corruption or other malpractices involving officers in more than a third of Britain's police forces are being investigated by other forces, according to a leading newspaper in London, Monday.

The Independent newspaper said that a rising number of complaints forms the backdrop to an increasing lack of public confidence in the British police, as shown in a poll carried out for the paper. Some chief constables were also quoted by the same daily as admitting that morale has dropped as a result of the controversies surrounding the British police last year.

Those include the disbandment of the West Midlands police crime squad in central England, and the freeing of four Irish nationalists after being convicted of bombing at Guildford, Surrey, outside London. (Kuna)

Self-destructing condoms: British scientists hoping to reduce the amount of plastic and rubber waste littering oceans are studying the possibilities of a self-destructing condom, the Independent newspaper said Sunday.

The newspaper said a leading condom manufacturer, London International, is examining the "photodegradable" sheath, a condom which disappears when exposed to light.

The company, which makes Durex condoms and supplies contraceptives to 11 million Britons every year, said after years of working to make naturally biodegradable latex more stable and reliable, it faces the difficult challenge of trying to undo some of that progress in the name of the environment. (UPI)

Dutch seize hashish: Dutch police said on Sunday they had seized a load of 2,600 kg (5,720 pounds) of hashish transported from Belgium and arrested two Dutchmen in connection with the case.

Working on a tip from Belgian police, agents followed a truck carrying the load, worth about \$3.5 million wholesale, from Antwerp to De Rijp, north of Amsterdam. They arrested the driver and a man alleged to have received the consignment.

The Netherlands is one of Europe's main centres for drug trafficking. Police made their two biggest hauls, of 45 tonnes of hashish and 3,000 kg (6,600 pounds) of cocaine, within three days of each other in February. (Reuters)

Drive to save African elephants: The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) has called for intensifying the global action to save the African elephant from extinction, as half of their 1.3 million population estimated to 1979 are believed to have disappeared since then.

In some countries, the proportion has been even higher. Since 1981, Sudan has lost 85 per cent of its elephants and Zambia 80 per cent, while Kenya has lost 85 per cent since 1973. A 1989 estimate showed numbers across the continent were reduced to less than 650,000.

If this rate of extinction continues, East, West and much of central Africa will only have small scattered herds left by the end of the century, according to WWF. (Kuna)

Two years needed to have real democracy: Havel

PRAQUE, April 30, (AP)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel said at least two years will be needed to create real democracy in this formerly communist country as the election campaign kicked off yesterday.

"These elections are more like a rehearsal... they are free enough but happening in a politically immature situation," Havel said in his regular Sunday radio broadcast.

Czechoslovakia's first free elections after more than four decades of communist rule are scheduled for June 8-9. A total of 23 parties and movements are competing for seats in the new parliament. Campaigning officially began yesterday.

"The main thing is to have a good parliament and a good government, not how many per cent of the vote each party gets," Havel said.

"The political life will be stabilised in approximately two years... these are elections still in a semi-revolutionary situation," he added.

Czechoslovakia's newly elected parliament is to have a limited mandate of two years to help stabilise the political situation as wide-reaching economic reforms are implemented.

Havel also confirmed he would run for president for another two-year term to see through the transition of his country to full democracy.

"In case it turns out to be necessary (for me to

run), I'll do it," he said.

In the elections, based on a principle of proportional representation, only those parties will gain seats in parliament which win at least five per cent of the national vote. This is considered likely to exclude from parliament several of the smaller parties competing.

Opinion polls published over the last week indicated the Civic Forum, a loose opposition group founded by Havel which played a key role in overthrowing the hardline communist leadership last year, is among the most popular political movements, with the support of about 20 per cent of the voters.



Berlin Wall smashed

The big arm of a crane (above) smashed into the concrete, scattering enough bits of Berlin Wall to fill a dozen souvenir stands.

A small crowd lingered into the early hours Sunday to watch the floodlit scene, winning a screaming, scraping array of machines began clearing away the most famous section of the battered barrier.

With the gigantic Brandenburg Gate as a backdrop, it was here that the most vivid image of the revolt against East Germany's communist government was created.

Thousands climbed the section of wall when the country's borders were opened on Nov 9, chipping away at a stretch of cement that was once an artery of political graffiti.

"I remember walking with my old mother here on Nov 5 and telling her that it won't be long before this wall is gone," said West Berliner Hans Ulrich, 42, as he leaned on a guardrail and watched the destruction.

"Of course, I'd been saying that for years."

Kiss-off

World record

CORVALLIS, Oregon, April 30, (AP)—About 2,000 people tried to kiss their way into the Guinness Book of World Records, aiming to set a record for the greatest number of people kissing at the same time and place.

Participants at the kiss-off at Oregon State University signed ticket stubs to be tabulated and submitted to the record book.

The current Guinness Book does not contain a record for this event, said Cassandra Wozniak, an organizer. She said efforts to contact the Guinness record keepers earlier this week failed.

Techniques varied. Some settled for modest pecks, others were more dramatic. Bryan Cook, 9, who did not participate, rolled his eyes when asked what he thought. "It's not gross, because I don't have to do it. If I did, it would be."

At the other end of the age scale, Allen Scott, 74, and Janet Wertz, 68, said the event was great. Scott, a retired professor, had one small complaint. "They started the event late. So we started a little bit early," he said with a wink. The two plan to marry in July.

Danes to sponsor sperm whale: Danish conservationists can now sponsor a sperm whale and get reports on its travels from mid-Atlantic waters and its summer home off Norway's Lofoten Islands, thanks to the World Wildlife Fund.

"For as little as 25 crowns (\$4) a month, members can part-sponsor one of the 60 sperm whales we've identified and we'll tell them each time it's sighted," said WWF Danish branch official Ivan Soerensen. "We're also planning to approach companies which can sponsor a whole whale for 50,000 crowns (\$770)," he said. The WWF has already received about 300,000 crowns (\$7,700) since launching the project one month ago. (Reuters)

Finnish reds join new alliance: Finland's Communist Party, one of the oldest and once one of the most powerful in Europe, has formed a new organisation with other left-wing groups in an attempt to revivify electoral fortunes.

The Leftist Alliance, formed at a founding congress at the weekend, has a socialist, Claes Andersson, as chairman. (Reuters)

Asia

Boat sinks, 7 dead: A fishing boat on an outing to celebrate the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan sank off western Sumatra, killing at least seven people, the official news agency reported Monday.

The agency, Antara, said one other person still was missing after the accident Sunday morning off the town of Naras in Panaman regency, about 64 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of the west Sumatra provincial capital of Padang. It said 50 people survived the sinking.

The search and rescue centre in Jakarta refused to comment on the report before hearing from its Padang office. (AP)

Burma burns narcotics: Authorities said they torched 251 kilograms (552 pounds) of heroin as well as other narcotic drugs in Rangoon Monday.

The drugs included 26 kilograms (57 pounds) of opium, 826 kilograms (1,817 pounds) of marijuana, and 5,292 litres (1,323 gallons) of phenyls, a cough medicine used by some addicts as a heroin substitute.

Burmese officials claimed the street value of the drugs was \$504 million. In February, the government publicly burned 209 kilograms (459 pounds) of narcotics.

Rangoon-based Western diplomats say the burnings are intended to convince the world that Burma is serious about combating the drug trade, but they are skeptical about that commitment.

Heroin from Burma currently accounts for some 40 per cent of that sold in the United States. US officials have accused the Burmese government of colluding with traffickers. (AP)

May Day with a change

Mark it as you please spirit in East

MOSCOW, April 30, (Reuters)—The democratic revolution which swept communism from power in Eastern Europe last year has taken the steam out of May Day, once the showcase for communist-worker solidarity.

Though May 1 remains a public holiday, big official parades will give way to or share the limelight with family-style festivals.

The annual May Day parade in Moscow's Red Square, for decades a stage-managed gathering of thousands of chosen workers carrying slogans praising the leadership's policies, will be thrown open to a wider Soviet public.

But authorities have also sanctioned a counter-parade and expect up to 300,000 people for a protest march through Red Square after the official procession, which has the slogan "down with

violence."

After years of obediently parading past their communist leaders, East Germans will at last be able to mark May Day as they please.

About 100,000 people are expected to march from East to West Berlin in a free rally for workers' rights, the first since the collapse of Stalinist rule in East Germany late last year.

In Czechoslovakia, the new discredited communists plan a simple public festival near the site of the former communist party college in Prague with beer, games and music to replace the organised mass processions of the past 45 years.

In Bulgaria, both the ruling Socialist Party and the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) plan events in the same square 30 minutes apart.

In Hungary, where communists reformed the political system from the inside, the last big May Day march was in 1988.

The country's official and independent trade unions will both hold events in Budapest parks to mount information campaigns, with the official unions staging a two-day picnic.

In Poland, Solidarity plans solemn masses in churches which over the last decade were most involved in helping the union as an underground opposition movement.

Yugoslavia will mark its national holiday with 15 artillery salvos tonight in the capitals of the six republics. Military and workers' parades in the grade were stopped more than a decade ago, before the death of its leader Josip Broz Tito in 1980.

Iranian radicals oppose dialogue

NICOSIA, April 30, (AP)—Iran's anti-Western radicals have criticised suggestions that Tehran consider opening direct talks with Washington, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today amid expectations a US hostage will be freed in Lebanon.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Tehran's Kayhan daily as saying in an editorial yesterday that any move toward dialogue with the United States deviated from the teachings of Iran's late leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, who died of cancer June 3.

The editorial was commenting on a suggestion Vice-President Atallah Mohajerani in an article published in Tehran's Ettelaat daily Thursday that proposals for direct US-Iranian talks should be considered by the Tehran government.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, is seeking to end Iran's isolation and improve links with the West and the media broadside underlined the opposition befalls from Tehran radicals.

Rafsanjani has been seeking to secure the release of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militants in Lebanon.

Mohajerani's comments followed the April 22 release of American educator Robert Pollitt, 55, after 39 months as a captive of a Shiite faction in Beirut.

That was seen as a victory for Rafsanjani and a first step toward breaking the deadlock in US-Iranian relations.

Veteran analyst Charles Snow wrote in today's edition of the respected Middle East Economic Survey: "The release of Mr Pollitt is unmistakably a conciliatory gesture which should be rewarded both for its own sake, unless the US actually wishes to play into the hands of the radicals in Tehran, and in order to encourage the Iranians to do more of the same."

"The problem is, however, that Mr Bush has also inherited an iron-clad commitment not to trade for hostages, or at least not to appear to do so, and must therefore try somehow to differentiate between a reciprocal gesture—and a quid pro quo."

"So far, Mr Bush has responded with the standard litany, saying, 'I don't trade for hostages,'" Snow wrote.

The Tehran Times, an English-language daily associated with Rafsanjani, yesterday quoted an unidentified Iranian official as saying another US hostage Frank Reed's promised release followed "extensive talks" between Tehran and the kidnappers.

Kayhan warned that any dialogue with the United States will mean "hurrying" the achievements of Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the pro-Western Shah and a major retreat.

It also said Mohajerani's suggestion amounted to urging Tehran to stop "fighting against the arrogance," the word Iranians use to describe the United States and its allies, and to bow down to the Americans and the West.

It would also signal "accepting the rule of opponents of (Khomeini's) divine rules and destroy the revolution," Kayhan declared.

The radical Jomhuri Islamic daily also lashed out at Mohajerani's "deviation," Iran reported.

The leader of Iran's radicals, former interior minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, wrote in a Kayhan commentary that Mohajerani's article was "begging for mercy from the great Satan," the Iranian epithet for the United States.

Mohtashemi, who was elected to Parliament in December and has sought to mobilise opposition to Rafsanjani, said the vice-president's article was "irresponsible" and advocated "crash-landing the system and the death of the Islamic revolution."

The former minister, who helped organise Shiite militants in Lebanon in the early 1980s, cited "US crimes... and plots to overthrow the Islamic republic" to underline American hostility.



Leola Sprague, the mother of Reed, smiles as she talks to the media about the announcement that her son would be freed soon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Wife ecstatic at news of release

Reed an adventurer

BOSTON, April 30, (Agencies)—The wife of American hostage Frank Herbert Reed jumped for joy yesterday when she learned from reporters that a Lebanese group had said it would release him soon.

"No no no" shouted an ecstatic Fifi Reed, 39, jumping up and down as she was given the news by reporters who had been camped on her doorstep for hours waiting for Reed and her son Terek, 9, to arrive home from dinner.

But the Syrian-born Reed added: "I'm afraid to believe in it. I want to keep a little scepticism in case it doesn't happen."

Photographs purporting to come from Reed's captors were released yesterday in Beirut with a statement saying the 57-year-old director of the Lebanese International School, abducted on Sept 9, 1986 would be released by tomorrow.

Mrs Reed and Terek moved to the United States after Reed was seized.

Other relatives in the Boston suburb of Malden were overjoyed at the report but waited anxiously to see whether Reed really would be freed.

"If it comes, we'll say, rejoice, rejoice," said Leola Reed Sprague, the hostess's 91-year-old mother, after receiving a call from the US State Department.

"It's been an awful, awful struggle for four years."

"The picture actually looked better than what I had pictured in my mind," said Reed's daughter, Marilyn Langston. "I thought he would be thinner."

Langston said she has not heard anything about her father's condition since two French hostages released a year ago told her Reed had recovered from beatings his captors gave him after a failed escape attempt.

"The world is my world," Reed told a New Hampshire newspaper 10 years before he was kidnapped while heading for a round of golf in Beirut.



Reed

Before settling in the Lebanese capital nine years ago, where he converted to Islam to marry the Muslim woman he loved, Reed had been a teacher and school principal in the United States, and he earned a reputation there as an adventurer.

He founded the Admiral Byrd Polar Club in Whitehall, New Hampshire, which sponsored expeditions to Antarctica. Reed had travelled to the North Pole, the jungles of Brazil and the Australian outback.

A native of Boston's northern suburb of Malden, Reed attended Harvard University, the University of Maine and Northeastern University. His life was education, said his daughter Marilyn Langston.

Reed was a personable, outgoing man, who made two trips to Lebanon before leaving his post as school principal in Whitehall to become director of elementary education at Beirut's International College in 1977.

After Reed was abducted Sept 9, 1986, a caller to a Western news agency claimed the American was a CIA spy and was taken hostage by Islamic Jihad. That Shiite fundamentalist organisation denied holding him and other callers claimed responsibility in the name of the Muslim fundamentalist Hezbollah and the little-known Arah Revolutionary Cells-Omar Mukhtar Brigade.

'We're very hopeful'

WASHINGTON, April 30, (AP)—President George Bush's spokesman said today "we're very hopeful" after getting word from the Syrian government that another American hostage would be released.

Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, also reiterated US policy that no concessions of reciprocal gestures would be made to the hostage-holders.

A previously unknown group in Lebanon said yesterday it would release hostage Frank Reed, 57, in 48 hours. Today, a top Syrian official said the release of an American hostage appeared imminent.

Syria played a key role in the April 22 release of US hostage Robert Pollitt.

Fitzwater said the US State Department's hostage reception team was being dispatched to Wiesbaden, West Germany. Released US hostages are taken to Wiesbaden for treatment after their release.

Bush was expected to meet privately at the White House later today with Pollitt, who has been recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre after being freed from 39 months in captivity in Lebanon.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara said today in Damascus there was "a high probability that an American hostage will be released during the next hours." He did not specifically name Reed.

"No one knows precisely what motivates the hostage-takers in any of their activities, either in the taking of hostages or holding them or releasing them," Fitzwater said.

"There is considerable speculation that Iran and Syria and others in that part of the world would like to have better relations with the United States," he said. "The president has said goodwill begets goodwill. And we are hopeful that indeed that is the case, that they do want better relations."

Yesterday, Bush said only that it would be "wonderful" if Reed were freed.

Once were teacher, pupil in an air force flying school

Mubarak and Assad — pilots rarely on the same course

CAIRO, April 30, (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syria's Hafez Al Assad, who will seal their countries' diplomatic reconciliation this week, were once teacher and pupil in an air force flying school.

As political leaders they have rarely flown the same course. Bound to allies who are at each other's throats, they will find it difficult to do so now.

But a slow evolution in the Middle East and the outside world has tempered the Egypt-Syria antagonism of the past 13 years, made civility possible and built up pressure for co-

operation between Cairo and Damascus.

Mubarak and Assad have little in common aside from their background as former fighter pilots and their reclusive natures. Both shun ceremony and lavish privileges for a simple family life and long hours behind their presidential desks.

Assad, 59, is ruthless, subtle and shrewd. A teenage street fighter against colonial domination and a member of a Muslim sect, the Alawites, who were then Syria's poorest minority, he has given his country 20 years of stability anchored in his willingness to use violence to crush incipient rebellion.

Mubarak, a former air force chief who will be 62 on Friday, stepped up from the vice-presidency when Anwar Sadat, the author of Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, was assassinated in October 1981.

In contrast with Assad's humble beginnings, Mubarak is a middle-class Sunni Muslim. While Assad is a fervent Arab nationalist, both secular and socialist.

He has used his eight years in office to maintain social equilibrium and allow the weight of numbers — Egypt's 55 million people — slowly to reassert Cairo's role at the centre of the Arab world.

Assad did not dissent when Egypt returned to the Arab League fold last year, a decade after Sadat's treaty with Israel.

Mubarak took his place at the League's summit in Morocco a year ago. Diplomatic relations between Syria and Egypt, broken by Sadat in 1977, reopened in December.

Ambassadors presented their credentials in both capitals this month.

According to presidential sources in Cairo, Mubarak will fly to Damascus for an official visit on Wednesday, hold a day of talks with Assad and possibly stay overnight.

A meeting of minds between Mubarak and

Assad would outflank three of the hitherto divisions in the Middle East — Arab conflict with Israel, Syria's intense rivalry with Iraq, and the Gulf war, in which fighting has ended but there is no sign of a peace settlement.

Egypt is still alone in the Arab world in having made peace with Israel.

Iraq is linked with Egypt in the Arab Co-operation Council.

Mubarak was once Assad's flying instructor when the young Syrian officer spent six months in Egypt. Those were heady days for Arab nationalists with the two countries preparing to unify under Egyptian President

Gamal Abdel Nasser's leadership.

But the United Arab Republic was shattered in 1961 after little more than three years by a military coup in Damascus.

Mubarak and Assad were to cross paths again in Moscow where both officers received military training.

In the 1960s most Arab leaders looked to the Soviet Union for support in throwing off the vestiges of British and French colonial influence and in curbing the mounting intrusion of Israel's main ally, the United States.

Shamir swipes at US

Something ridiculous in 'Yes to Baker'

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 30, (Reuters): Israel's caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a sign of growing tensions with Washington, said today that Israel need not accept every Middle East peace proposal of a US secretary of state.

Accused by Washington of creating obstacles to peace, the rightist Likud Party leader countered with his biggest swipe yet at Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

In a radio interview to mark the 42nd anniversary of Israeli statehood, the 74-year-old Shamir defended his refusal to say "yes to Baker" which brought down his coalition with the dovish Labour Party in March.

"I must say there is something perhaps ridiculous in the very slogan 'yes to Baker'. What is this 'yes to Baker'?" said Shamir, acting premier until he forms a new government.

Herzog calls for electoral reforms

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 30, (AP): President Chaim Herzog issued a strong call for electoral reform to his independence day speech and said Israeli politicians have shown a "total contempt for the principles of democracy" in their attempt to form a government.

Leaders of a growing electoral reform campaign met with Herzog today and delivered 501,000 pro-reform signatures carried to the president's Jerusalem residence in mail bags in the back of a truck, said Herzog spokesman Giora Forder.

Nearby, several thousand demonstrators staged a protest rally in front of parliament to push for a new political system.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis, meanwhile, celebrated their 42nd independence day with picnics and barbecues, on Mediterranean beaches, in parks and forests.

Police reported massive traffic jams along the major highways, and Israel radio said record-size sites from north to south were filled.

The 15-member delegation that met with Herzog today included Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek, two rabbis, army reserve officers on a hunger strike and university professors, Forder said.

Herzog praised the group for its efforts and said he had "no doubt that a change in the political system which has led to such terrible results must and will be achieved."

Electoral reform has been demanded by a growing number of Israelis tied up with the wheeling and dealing of politicians trying to form a ruling coalition after the collapse of the previous government March 15.

The president also dedicated a major part of his traditional independence day speech last night to the subject.

"How can citizens who have the democratic right to choose their representatives watch calmly the political phenomena revealing a total contempt for the principles of democracy and their distortion," Herzog said.

"I want to use this opportunity and appeal to the political leaders ... not to ignore the voice of the people," Herzog said.

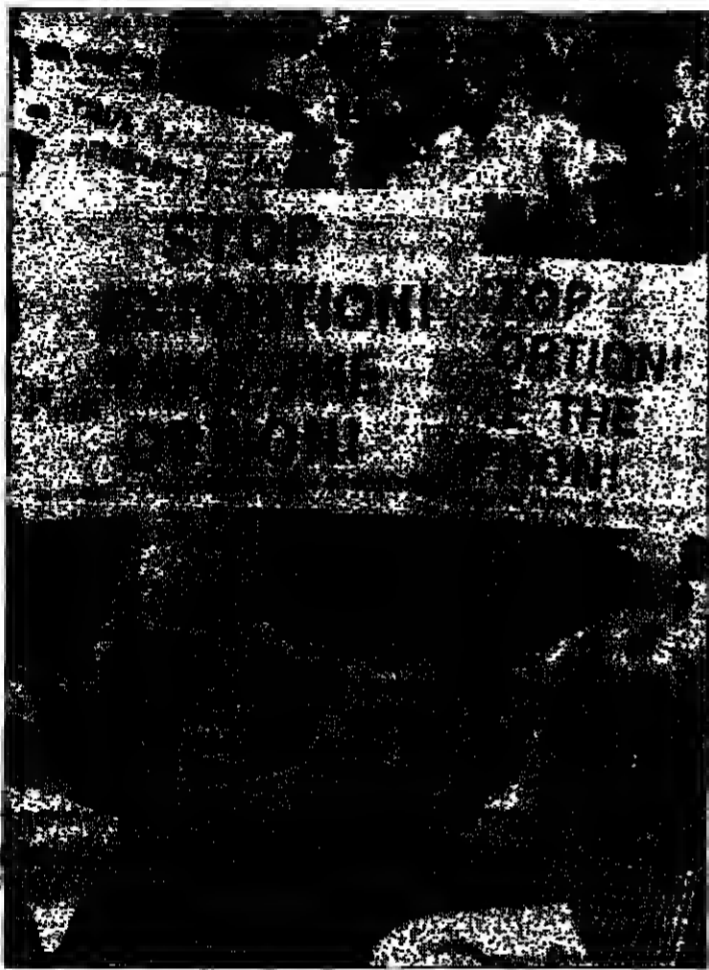
The president did not specify what system he favoured, and warned that reform "is not a wonder drug that will remove all the troubles from our public life."

Some leaders of the reform campaign have called for direct elections of the prime minister and regional election of at least half the 120 members of parliament.

Under Israel's current system, the country is considered one electoral district and less than 1 per cent of the vote is needed for a party to win a seat in parliament.

As a result, no party has ever won enough votes to govern alone. The two largest, the rival left-of-centre Labour Party and right-wing Likud bloc, are forced to enter coalitions with smaller factions that win disproportionate influence as kingmakers.

After the Likud-Labour coalition fell March 15, Israelis watched in dismay as leaders of both camps made blatant offers of political jobs and money to lure parties and defectors from the rival camp.



Israelis hold up placards April 30 in occupied Jerusalem, calling for reform in the Israeli electoral system. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arafat meets Mubarak

CAIRO, April 30, (AP): Yasser Arafat, touring the Middle East to drum up support for an Arab League summit on the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, met today with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman arrived early today and met privately with Mubarak for about an hour, then with key aides. Afterward, Arafat left Mubarak's palace through an exit where he knew reporters were not waiting.

Neither leader nor his spokesman talked with reporters. The subjects of

the discussions were not disclosed. But Arafat has been to Jordan, North Yemen and Saudi Arabia to boost a request by the PLO for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the migration of thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel.

The Arabs see the movement as a threat to the Palestinians of the Israel-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to overall prospects for Middle East peace.

Kiribati, United Arab Emirates, Algeria and other Arab countries already have endorsed the summit idea.

"We are happy we co-operate with the US government in the bold effort to reach some sort of agreement with the Arab world in the conflict between us and them."

But if there is understanding and co-operation between us and the United States, no one can expect we will accept every proposal or idea of an American secretary of state come what may," Shamir said.

Shamir's refusal to accept the US plan for talks in Cairo led to the collapse of his broad coalition with the Labour Party. Labour left the government and Shamir was defeated on a no-confidence motion in parliament.

In Mid-April Labour leader Shimon Peres conceded he was unable to form a new administration dedicated to accepting the proposal and Shamir, 74, was asked to form another government.

He vowed to stand by his proposal for Palestinian elections to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But he offered no alternative for advancing talks in Cairo.

Shamir, rejecting the Cairo talks as a "bait and switch" with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, denied his hard line would fuel a 28-month-old PLO-backed revolt against occupation. He told the radio there was no connection.

Israelis danced in the streets to celebrate independence while troops imposed curfew to pre-empt protests by the 650,000 Palestinians of the Gaza Strip. Checkpoints stopped potential West Bank demonstrators.

In its latest rebuke, the United States voiced dismay at Shamir's government for having boosted Jewish settlement in the occupied territories since the departure of the more dovish Labour Party led by Shimon Peres.

Washington views as an "obstacle to peace" the 70,000 Jews in settlements among the 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied territories, part of Biblical Israel, which were captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

In an Israeli television interview yesterday, Shamir said settlements would continue but only at a pace Israel could afford. He denied plans for a "massive settlement" of Jews to the occupied territories.

Meanwhile half a million Israelis — angry over the open political deal to form a new government — signed petitions asking President Chaim Herzog to set up a commission on changing the electoral system.



Dead honoured

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir stands in attention on Sunday in Mt. Herzl military cemetery as sirens blared marking Memorial Day honouring Israel's war dead. Earlier Shamir in a speech accused foreign governments of trying to force him into negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). (Reuters wirephoto)

"No demonstrations will be allowed in Istanbul. We have taken precautions against all possibilities," Istanbul police spokesman Halis Bogurcu told Reuters on Monday.

Heading for attack

Chad said on Sunday 2,000 Libyan-based troops were heading for Sudan, from where they intended to launch a cross-border attack on Chad's Army positions.

Chad's embassy in Paris said in a statement a column of the Libyan Islamic legion left its base at Koufra in Libya on Saturday for the Darfur region of northern Sudan bordering Chad.

"The objective of this column is to attack positions of the Chadian Army at the border with Sudan," the statement said.

Relations between Chad and Libya, which improved last year after the two signed an agreement over the disputed Aouzou Strip on the border between the two countries, have taken a nosedive. (Reuters)

PM to visit Iraq: Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut is likely to visit Iraq in May for talks on issues including a Kurdish insurgency in Turkey and sharing the waters of the Euphrates, official sources said on Monday.

The prospective trip follows Akbulut's visit to Iran in February and is in line with Turkey's desire to maintain neutrality between Baghdad and Tehran since their eight-year war was halted by a ceasefire in 1988.

The sources said the official visit to Nato-member Turkey's major oil supplier was likely on May 5-7. (Reuters)

Preventing rallies: Turkish police will be out in force in Istanbul on Tuesday to prevent any illegal May Day rallies following riots last year.

Mubarak to discuss on Israel in Syria

CAIRO, April 30, (Reuters): Egypt and Syria, allies until they fell out over Israel in 1977, will kiss and make up on Wednesday with a visit by President Hosni Mubarak to Damascus.

Diplomats said Israel would be high on the agenda when Mubarak, on the first visit to Syria by an Egyptian leader since Anwar Sadat's 13 years ago, meets President Hafez Al Assad.

Announcing Mubarak's visit, Information Minister Safwat Sherif told reporters that the Egyptian President would visit Damascus at Assad's invitation without elaborating.

Diplomats said the leaders, who restored ties in December, would discuss how to bring peace to the Middle East. Neither Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with the Jewish state nor Syria's hostility have resulted in a settlement.

Syria, which is officially at war with Israel and hosts several Palestinian groups, has in recent months toned down its anti-Israeli rhetoric.

It has signalled willingness to negotiate over the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war when Egypt and Syria fought side by side.

Egypt has been trying without success to persuade Israel to hold first-ever talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Diplomats said Mubarak would also try to benefit from Assad and PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Iraq's Saddam Hussein, who are both close to Egypt.

Iraq has offered to host an Arab summit in May to discuss Arab outrage at an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, many of whom they fear will settle in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Syrian-Egyptian ties were cut in 1977 when Sadat shocked the Arab world with a visit to Jerusalem that led to the US-brokered peace treaty.

Arafat, on a tour of Arab states to rally support for a summit, met Mubarak in Cairo today and launched with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Maguid before leaving for an undisclosed destination.

Egypt has so far not commented on the summit proposal.

Arab leaders last met in May 1989 when Mubarak attended Egypt's first Arab League gathering since its membership was frozen in 1979 in protest at its treaty with Israel.

Mubarak and Assad met again last month in Libya.

Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali in remarks published today urged Syria to attend the summit even if it is held in Iraq, its main Arab rival.

"I hope all Arabs will participate in the summit, including Syria," the London-based newspaper Al Hayat quoted him as saying.

Along among Arab states, Syria supported Iran in its eight-year war with Iraq starting in 1980.

Saudi Arabia's Al Riyadh daily said Arab states should make sure they had resolved their differences before a summit.

"A call for an Arab summit does not provide practical solutions ... the problem is not getting Arab leaders together, but how to treat Arab causes," it said.

Peace march row in Jordan

Sword-crossing in Algeria

AMMAN, April 30, (AP): Muslim fundamentalists who make up the largest bloc in Parliament urged the government yesterday to block a planned peace march by an Arab-American group, and warned that the demonstrators may be attacked.

The Muslim Brotherhood movement also plans to stage its own demonstration on June 1, in an apparent attempt to overshadow the four-day peace march planned by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, sources said.

The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, based in Washington, D.C., announced last week that 50,000 people would take part in the 70-km (43-mile) march from Amman to the Jordan River.

Nidal Sukhtian, president of the Jordan chapter of the organisation, said the demonstrators hope to cross the King Hussein-Allenby Bridge into the occupied West Bank on June 4.

It was not clear how Israel would react to that. Israel normally subjects foreigners crossing the bridge to thorough searches.

Arabs crossing into the West Bank need hard-to-obtain permits. They undergo strip searches and exhaustive checks of their luggage on the bridge.

Sukhtian said the marchers would call for peace with Israel, a Palestinian state and direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mohammed Abdul-Rahman Khalifa, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, said his movement denounces moves to wave an

Israeli flag in Jordan.

He said: "This is nonsense, and the government should prevent such ridiculous action."

"We cannot guarantee that this march will not be attacked," he told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Another Brotherhood source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "We are not satisfied with this march and we will never accept that the Star of David or an Israeli flag be raised on the virtuous Jordanian soil."

The Brotherhood rejects the idea of an Arab-Israeli peace dialogue which the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee plans to promote. The fundamentalists believe that lands occupied by Israel in the 1948 and 1967 wars should be regained by force.

The Algerian army will maintain a ban on the wearing of beards and veils by medical staff in its military hospital in Algiers despite criticism from Islamic fundamentalists, the Defence Ministry said today.

"Measures taken by the military authorities remain valid, because they conform with Islam, individual liberty and army regulations," the ministry said in a statement published by the local media.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), a radical political party, called on Saturday for the military hospital authorities to be prosecuted because it said the ban on beards and veils was contrary to Islamic values.

The Defence Ministry said the army rejected his interpretation and that his remarks were subversive.

Lebanon nightmare

Frontline village in ruins

QALIAAT, Lebanon, April 30, (Reuters): Civilians returned nervously to the frontline village of Qalaaat yesterday to save what little they could from the ruins.

With a brief ceasefire silencing the guns of rival Christian forces that have been tearing the village to pieces for three months, they found destruction extraordinary even in Lebanon's civil war.

"To say this is bad doesn't even begin to describe this mess," said Charbel Hachem, helping his father and mother-in-law carry a few possessions from their shell-blasted apartment in the village, 22 km (14 miles) northeast of Beirut.

"This is the work of the devil. You can't imagine this amount of destruction unless you see it. It is a nightmare. Words are too weak to explain this."

The Lebanese Forces militia and troops loyal to General Michel Aoun have battled for this mountain resort village since their war for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave began on January 31. Each side holds roughly half of Qalaaat.

They agreed to a weekend ceasefire to let civilians to salvage property and inspect their homes. It also gave anyone still trapped by the fighting a chance to escape.

Troops and militiamen watched each other across a no-man's land which was the main street of a village of 3,000 people.

Throughout the village several thousand people were at work hastily piling what they could salvage into trucks and cars.

Then, frightened of snipers or a collapse in the truce, they drove out as fast as they could along shell-pocked mountain roads.

No one had time to pray at the village church, St Simon's. Its wooden doors had been torn down by bullets and its walls holed by shells.

Charbel Hachem found loading his relatives' furniture, plants and kitchen appliances onto his truck difficult as helpers had to manoeuvre around a 240-mm mortar shell which failed to explode in the building's entrance.

An uncompleted seven-storey apartment block next door was flattened by shells in February. A child's bicycle was still sandwiched between concrete blocks but villagers said families living there fled before the building came down.

Streets were covered with rubble, broken glass and shrapnel. For block after block buildings lay shattered by explosions or blackened by fire.

"That's my house. Look at what they've done," screamed Michel Farah, pointing at a heap of broken masonry. "I need \$60,000 to rebuild and I don't have it." His family were sheltering with other refugees in a church near east Beirut.

A shell-holed armoured troop carrier with a red LF Christian cross painted on its nose lay overturned in the village square, where land mines and the stumps of wooden electricity poles cut



A Christian woman carries what little she could find from the ruins of her frontline village Qalaaat north east of Lebanon on Friday under the guns of rival Christian forces. More than 3,500 people have been killed in battles between Christian warlords for the control of the Christian enclave. (Reuters wirephoto)

down by firing marked the frontline between militia and army.

"My brother is over there," said one of Aoun's men, staring into the upper part of the village. "He is with the Lebanese Forces." Asked if he would shoot him if he saw him, the soldier said no, but then noticed a reporter taking down his answer.

"Yes, yes, I would shoot him for General Aoun," he said.

He then borrowed a photographer's camera and long lens and looked in vain for the brother he last saw in January.

Al Bashir links SPLA rebels with aborted coup, pledges peace

KHARTOUM, April 30, (AP): Sudan's military ruler yesterday linked rebels in south Sudan with last week's aborted coup but pledged to keep up peace contacts with them.

Speaking at a news conference amid tight security, Lieut Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir also accused leaders of the failed coup of planning to abolish the existing Islamic sharia laws and vowed there would never be a secular state in Sudan.

They were "targeting to abolish the 1983 sharia laws and introduce in their place the 1974 secular laws but there will never be secular laws in Sudan 'Insha-Allah' (God willing). The question has been settled once and for all," he said.

He said document and evidence found with the plotters revealed they planned to assassinate leaders of political parties be dissolved after seizing power in a military coup June 30 and blame the 15-man junta for the action.

The perpetrators were "a coalition of leftists elements within the dissolved political parties," Al Bashir said.

They planned to eliminate all junta members and other public figures in addition to leaders of dissolved political parties, he alleged.

"We have laid our hands on a comprehensive list containing those who would have been executed," Al Bashir added.

Officials of Al Bashir's government have

earlier said that the two-stage failed attempt was a conspiracy between rebellious officers and politicians who issued an underground joint declaration late last year.

The document sought the overthrow of the junta and drafting of a constitution as steps toward returning partisan politics to Sudan with participation of rebels fighting a civil war for seven years in the south to demand greater autonomy and economic reforms.

On Tuesday, Al Bashir's government executed 28 officers, including three retired generals and a brigadier by firing squads following a secret summary court-martial less than 24 hours after their coup attempt was crushed. A

colonel was acquitted.

Two days later, eight army officers were convicted with sentences up to 15 years in prison and six others were acquitted.

Al Bashir told the news conference the co-conspirators planned to form a "national salvation government" under Professor Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil, the former speaker of the dissolved national assembly or parliament.

Police in Khartoum today dispersed a demonstration by relatives of 28 army officers executed last week for their alleged role in a failed coup, diplomats in the Sudanese capital said.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Influx of workers linked with crime: Musawi

120 nationalities in Kuwait

DR NIDAL AL Musawi from Kuwait University has referred the increase of moral crimes and crimes committed by juveniles to the increase of Asian workers who come to work in Kuwait. She said that many dangerous social diseases are common among them like homosexuality and assaulting of children. She believed that families are responsible for protecting their children and warned mothers not to

send their child alone with the driver to school. An adult of the family should go, she said.

She pointed out that maids affect children greatly as they live with them day and night. She added that most of the Kuwaiti and even Arab families in Kuwait depend on maids to take care of their children. She added that there is a link between develop-

ment projects and increase of crimes because these projects need workers. There are workers from 120 countries of the world working and living in Kuwait. She added that many new crimes appeared in Kuwait recently which were not known by Kuwait society before the discovery of oil. Additionally, she said there are some organised crimes committed in Kuwait

while the old Kuwaiti society did not know such crimes. Crimes in the past were committed by individuals.

Musawi pointed out that most crimes committed by juveniles are as a result of disputes within their families and their bad friends. Fathers who have more than one wife have no time to take care of their children, she said.



Lt. Col. Fahed Al Hmaidid



First Lt. Saad Sulaimi



A border security guard... alert at all times

Smugglers prone to violence: Hmaidid

Border forces alert

COMMANDER of Battalion 70 of the border guards, Lt. Col. Fahed Al Hmaidid has said that the methods of smugglers have recently varied but with the tendency to be more violent than before. He said that smugglers easily resort to the use of arms fire thus subjecting lives to danger. He added that the border guards also resort to the use of arms in trying to prevent smugglers and smuggling operations or during a chase.

The commander said that the border security force carries out several other duties besides fighting smugglers. They organise the exit and return of sheep herds, provide assistance to desert campers and remain on duty around the clock. Border patrols are distributed in a pre-planned manner to ensure continuous control and supervision over Kuwaiti borders, Hmaidid stressed.

All patrols are kept in constant touch with each other through modern communication systems and means.

Problems

One of the major problems facing the border security force is the non-co-operation of campers and their violation of rules. Hmaidid said. Campers are supposed to keep a distance of at least 3-5 kilometres from the border but they always violate this. He added that some campers take their families and cross the borders of the neighbouring countries subjecting themselves to many risks including being fired at. The commander said that smugglers utilise the opportunity provided by

spring camps in the desert and increase their smuggling activity. Some of them seek the assistance of campers.

Assistance

He said that some of the smugglers operate as campers to facilitate smuggling. They simply erect tents like innocent campers. He added that there is firm co-operation with the neighbouring countries in fighting smuggling.

Lt. Col. Hmaidid said that smugglers operating across the Kuwaiti borders have recently modernised the equipment they use. At present, they use huge pick ups to ensure superiority over securitymen. They also seek the assistance of specialised people monitoring the roads for them. To ensure their success, smugglers use modern communication equipment that act as a link between them and their financiers in Kuwait. These smugglers usually go out with 3 or 4 vehicles, all armed with machine guns. The smugglers utilise odd times like during dust storms, high temperatures or during rest time for the forces. He said that the most dangerous phenomenon is that smugglers resort to shooting so easily and never tend to surrender even if they find themselves in the worst position.

Lt. Col. Hmaidid said that his men usually do not shoot at smugglers except in order to force their vehicle to stop. He also said that most of the smugglers who succeed in entering the country do not pass through the ordinary borders but through the farms near the borders.

Umm Al Haiman, Shabiyat reconstruction to go ahead

THE news about the reconstruction of Umm Al Haiman and Al Shabiyat areas has caused wide reactions among people in Jahra and Ahmadi governorates.

To monitor such a reaction, a local daily had interviewed a number of officials at both governorates.

The secretary-general of Ahmadi governorate Ahmed Alhaddad said that the news published in this connection constituted an accusation against the council of Ahmadi governorate. He added that Ahmadi governorate was considering the reconstruction of Umm Al Haiman area as a Kuwaiti political decision. He pointed out that the Governorate Council never sent any letter to the Higher Housing Council requesting the postponement of the said reconstruction process.

A member of Jahra governorate Council Mutlak Abu Zahair said that Jahra Governorate suffered a lack of many utilities and pointed out that the resolutions adopted by the Governorate Council in this connection were based on the desires

of citizens. He added that the Governorate Councils were set up to follow closely the point of view of various ministries and citizens.

He added that the council has called on the authorities concerned to rehabilitate several utilities including Kazmah Coast and Doha Coast in order to create a second water front project.

He added that the council has suggested the removing of Jahra hased Shabiyat area and added that the National Housing Authority (NHA) has responded to the suggestion and decided to remove this area during the fiscal year 1992/1993. The relevant land will be distributed to citizens in the shape of plots for housing purposes.

He disclosed that there is co-ordination among the Governorate Councils through the forming of the joint committees for the studying of projects that might be suggested on a state level.

Meanwhile, the director of distribution department at National Housing Authority

(NHA) Suhbi Al Mulla has confirmed the authority's plan to remove Umm Al Haiman and Shabiyat areas as well as the reconstruction of these areas. He pointed out that the authority has prepared a report on this issue including the meetings held with representatives of the ministries of Defence and Interior over the finding out of the appropriate alternatives for the people currently staying in these two areas. This report will be submitted to the minister of state for housing affairs soon.

He confirmed that the removing and reconstruction of these two areas were mainly connected with the state's fourth housing plan, and the authority still insists on carrying out this aspect of such a plan.

On the other hand, the director general of National Housing Authority (NHA) Dr Ibrahim Majed Al Shaheen has ruled out the postponement of Umm Al Haiman and Shabiyat reconstruction project. He added that current houses in the two areas are unsuitable for habitation as it were old.

Four-man committee to distribute market stalls

THE Public Services Committee at the Council of Ministers have approved the formation of a four-man committee comprising representatives from Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and others from the local vegetables and fruits market. This body is selected by ballot on the monthly basis to supervise the distribution and circulation of stalls at the free market.

The Municipal Affairs Committee has discussed the responsibilities to be assigned to the proposed four-man committee and agreed that it is necessary to put an end to all problems occurring at the market recently.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Municipality is currently engaged in a study aimed at laying down constraints for securing protection to pavements tiles against damage or scraping caused by falling construction material, in line with the renovation licences issued by the Planning Department.

No border exit and entry fees yet: Sebei

KUWAIT, April 30. (Kuna): The authorities have no plans now to impose departure and entry fees at the country's land or sea border points, a senior Interior Ministry official said in a press interview today.

Col. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Sebei, director of the border points department, also expected the forms routinely filled by travellers to and from Kuwait to be scrapped some time next year.

The official added in an interview published in a local daily that the authorities will continue to strictly enforce a law under which the residence permit of an expatriate would be cancelled if he, or she, stayed out of the country for over six months continuously.

Certain exceptions involving prior permission of the authorities are still common, however, he said.

Responding to a question, he said a travel ban imposed several years ago on debt defaulters linked to the Manakh Stock Market crash has been lifted.

Col. Sebei added that 18,100 people were banned from leaving the country in 1989 while 7,893 others were denied entry for various reasons.

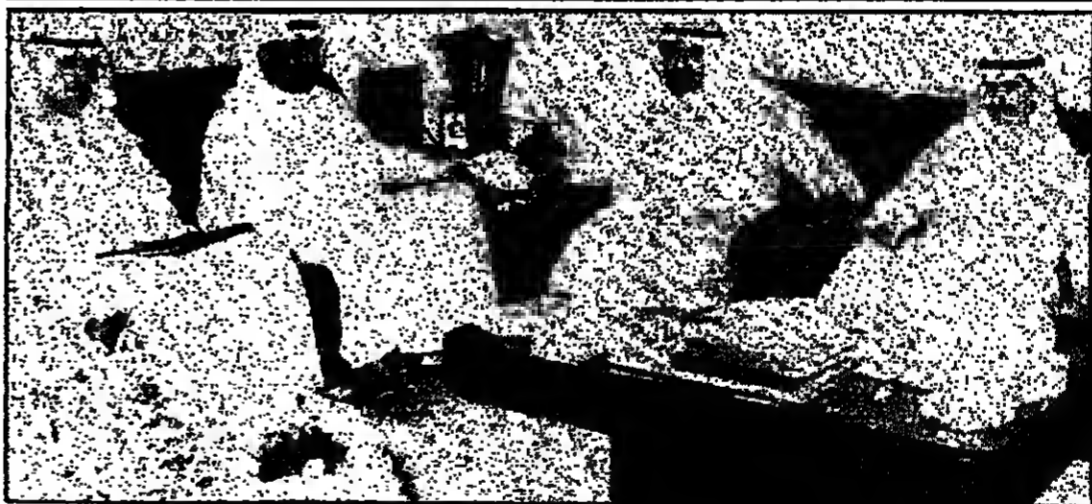
Local supplier fined \$815,000

THE court of Higher Appeal has ruled against a local supplier to pay the sum of \$815,000 value of a contract signed between him and another government agency for the supply of 1,000 tons of resin.

The court heard that the supplier requested the government agency to open a letter of credit in the name of two German companies at a local bank. The government agency however discovered that one of the local companies had earlier been exposed to an act of fraud on dealing with the same supplier.

Inspection

The government agency then immediately took advance legal arrangements to sue the supplier and when the cargo arrived at Shuwaikh port, it was thoroughly inspected by a team of experts from the client and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and discovered that the material was merely earth.



Nasser meets accountants

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Sabah received at his office recently a delegation from the Kuwait Accountants society.

Health statistics for '89 published

THE public relations director at the Public Health Ministry Faisal Al Dousari said that last year 111,359 patients visited the outpatients clinics of Mubarak Al Kaheer Hospital 19,311 patients were admitted to the hospital and 6,418 patients underwent surgery.

He added that Amiri Hospital's outpatients received 159,436 patients, wards of the hospital received 12,517 patients and 13,396 surgeries were performed in 1989.

He pointed out that outpatients of Addan Hospital received 170,887 patients, Jahra Hospital 115,225 Farwaniya Hospital 143,899; and Sabah Hospital 405,397 patients. The wards of Addan Hospital received 27,306 patients; Jahra Hospital 29,479; Farwaniya Hospital 36,438 and Sabah Hospital 120,522 patients. Addan Hospital performed 17,778 surgeries; Jahra Hospital 6,491 Far-

Both Kuwaitis and expats feel alienated

"Kuwaitis don't like expats"

In a field study carried out recently 92 per cent Kuwaitis strongly agree that the presence of expatriates in Kuwait has adversely affected the customs, traditions and values of their country. And, 77.5 per cent Kuwaitis also strongly agree that the presence of expatriates in Kuwait has an adverse effect as a whole and they certainly have adversely affected the standard of living. These findings were published in a doctorate thesis prepared by Dr Abdullah Al Fouzan Al Najadeh, director of the Statistics and Research Department at Kuwait Municipality.

Temporary

He carried out his field study on 690 persons living in Kuwait who consisted of 260 Kuwaitis and 430 expatriates. The main theme of this study was "Social Change and Alienation in

Kuwait." The researcher won a doctorate degree from a United Kingdom university.

The study also found that among those expatriates, 69 per cent said that they feel unstable and insecure and their presence in Kuwait was a temporary one. 60.2 per cent of them believe that "Kuwaitis don't like expatriates", and that 71 per cent of them knew either little or nothing about Kuwait before coming here.

The study also found that 51 per cent of the expatriates questioned said that they are in Kuwait just to improve their financial conditions and that 66.3 per cent of them believe that life in Kuwait is boring.

Decline

Concerning the answers of the Kuwaitis on the social change in their society, 68.6 per cent believe there is a firm relation between

the fast social change and the deteriorating social relations among families and 67 per cent of them see that the family relations and friendships have been deteriorating and going further down. The study also found that 60 per cent of the Kuwaitis questioned believe that individualism and materialism have the upper hand in their society.

The researcher on his part stressed on the importance of his research on alienation. He said that alienation and fast social change are very important topics particularly for Gulf countries and this should attract the attention of researchers. He added that field studies are highly important in coming out with some rules on such vital social issues. The researcher plans to extend the results of his study to other Gulf countries in the future.

Avoid drugs for obesity: Awadi

Many side effects

OBESITY constitutes the problem of the age and its victims are many. Most of these seek to be elegant again. Pharmacies in Kuwait are full of drugs, belts and other electrical appliances which may be used for weight reduction. But experiments have proved that a strong will is the best way to get rid of fat. This will should be represented by following an appropriate nutritious diet in addition to a considerable amount of exercise, as the perils of using drugs and electrical appliances were far too many. These aids may cause several diseases and in the meantime do not realise the targeted elegance. To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed a number of nutrition consultants physicians and pharmacists. The director of the nutrition department and ministry of public health Dr Fawziya Al Awadi said that the dependence on medications and electrical appliances as well as diuretics created many side effects. She warned that an excess of diuretics may lead to the lack of potassium in the human body and eventually may cause muscle convulsions, heart attacks and diabetes.

She clarified that the best way to reduce weight is to follow a balance diet and combine it with exercise. She added that exercises eventually proves effective in getting rid of fat.

Dr Ali Al Sager a specialist in general medicine said that the main reason for obesity is an excessive consumption of food, a lackadaisical social life and a lack of movement.

Apart from the above, there are organic grounds for obesity which might be represented by liver diseases, heart diseases, nervous system shortcomings ductless gland diseases, the official said. He added that contraceptives sometimes caused obesity in women.

He added that people who are obese should consult a general medical practitioner in order to clarify the reasons for the obesity. The patients should be referred to a nutrition specialist only after he or she is thoroughly checked. Incurable cases should be referred to the hospital to be put under constant observation and should be subjected to a special diet, Sager said.

He added that an unscientific diet may affect the functions of the nervous system and may cause disease in the joints. He added that those who suffered obesity should make sure of the soundness of their thyroid gland, liver, kidney and heart.

He added that some obese patients strove to reduce the quantity of carbohydrates in their diet but this could create a shortage of potassium in the body and lead to various diseases besides heart troubles.

One pharmacist, who refused to be identified has called on obese patients not to use the electrical belt. He pointed out that such belts do not benefit the obese. He added that the use of this belt may hurt those who use it by causing ruptures.

He called on the patients not to take any medicine without a proper medical prescription.

Sheep prices drop again

THE Livestock Transport and Trading Co. (LTTTCO) reduced the price of a head of Australian sheep from KD 17 to KD 10-300 on 23.4.1990. The company's decision was taken on the same day it learnt about the arrival of a ship carrying sheep for a private competitive firm.

The private company, sources claim, believe that the LTTTCO is undertaking a policy directed to liquidate all competitors from the local market in this particular area of trade and commerce. The private livestock companies see the present action of the LTTTCO of which the government owns the largest per centage of shares as a strong basis to substantiate their claims that competition will not be permitted to flourish in Kuwait in the sale of livestock.

Sources further said that the 70 centres and branches of the company began retailing a kilo of meat for 450 fils instead of the official price of 750 fils a kilo that was affirmed by the Ministry of Commerce.

Attraction

This action contributed to successfully attracting the largest number of consumers - specially as it reduced its prices during the week of Eid Al Fitr. Though other private companies failed to reduce their prices to the levels of the LTTTCO, one of these firms decided to reduce its prices on Saturday to 400 fils a kilo.

This speculation in prices of fresh Australian meat reminds one of a similar situation when the price of a kilo of Australian meat dropped to 300 fils and a head of sheep was only KD7 last year and the year before.

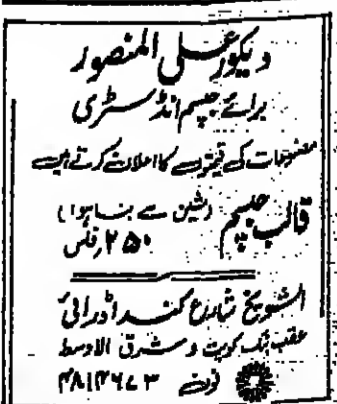
Begging really pays off

A SENIOR official at a local charity establishment has said that there are organised begging rings in Kuwait operating in densely populated areas.

The director of Zakat house Abdul Qader Al Qadri said that begging is a seasonal phenomenon in Kuwait that becomes active in certain times of the year and disappears for the rest of the year.

He said that the house received all beggars, men and women, and offered them financial aid following a close check of their social and economic situation. He underscored the fact that the house does not succumb to make priorities of aid on preferential personal basis.

He said that the maximum limit of monthly financial aid given by the house to beggars reached KD 300. However, he commented that beggars rarely come to collect their share of aid from the house on the excuse that they can collect a month's pay in one day of begging.





Miss World Airlines Suneeta Sodhi crowns Villette Fernandes Festival Queen while Margaret Burby and Beena Sharma look on.



A radiant Villette on the victory stand with Suneeta and Margaret.



Villette making her speech with runners-up Sujata Krishnan (right) and Sharon Hussein (left) while Suneeta looks on.



A contestant twirls around in her ethereal sari.



Short and vivacious; one of Gayatri's many models.



Skirt and culotte combo swinging around to disco music.



Traditional elegance in a heavily brocaded shawl kamees.

Indian Festival Queen crowned in classy affair at IAC

Villette Fernandes wins

By Nirma Janasen
Arab Times staff

A DAZZLING bevy of Indian beauties took to the stage at the Indian Arts Circle in Funtunes Sunday night to participate in the Festival Queen Contest and a scintillating "Voyage" into the world of fashion.

The India Festival which is well into its seventh day today is now well and truly fine tuned. Sunday's programme was splendidly choreographed from start to finish. The sound system worked, the announcers were crisp and unlike the opening night when 90 per cent of the audience stood outside the auditorium over 500 people stayed glued to their seats.

Ranjana Gauhar's Odissi performance was divine but what made her five dances so enjoyable was that each was comprehensively explained before she actually performed.

Sections of people in the audience who are normally bored with Indian classical dance solely because they do not understand the ragas or the subtle expressions of the dancer perked up to enjoy Ranjana's performance. The fact that Ranjana changed her costume midway added to the colour.

Spirit

Ms Gayatri's "Voyage" an upbeat fashion show wowed the audience. All the models in the show were obviously young and inexperienced but they exhibited pizzazz and a lot of spirit. Well-timed music and the kind of clothes that appeal to the young whether conservative or modern, added to the dazzle.

Gayatri and her fashion troupe of 28 should be congratulated for providing a fresh approach to being Indian. Young, spirited and ready to face challenges in a world that is fast getting smaller.

The highlight of the evening was the crowning of the Festival Queen. 28 young beauties participated in the beauty contest and 13 were lopped off in a pre-elimination round before the actual contest.

15 beauties went on stage in costumes ranging from the archetypal sari to long flowing skirts and calf-length culottes.

Judges Evelyn Jashammal, Kiki Siddiqui, Tamara Hill and Peter Janssen had a tough time choosing the finalists. Five were supposed to be chosen but a couple of ties ended Round 1 with seven finalists.

Points

Contestants were judged in Round 1 for dress, hairstyle, make-up, posture and poise and were awarded a maximum of 500 points for each. Round 11 was tougher still for judges as contestants were awarded points for self-confidence, general knowledge and presence of mind.

Vijay Sharma was at his best emceeing the beauty contest but he

probably was thoroughly coached by his better half Beena Sharma who organised the affair.

Tall, lithe and confident number 24 Villette Fernandes walked away with the crown and prizes donated by Jashammal and Partners and Bhasin and Co. Sujata Krishnan and Sharon Hussein were first and second runners-up.

Villette was crowned and ribboned by Miss World Airlines Suneeta Sodhi and IAC chief hostess Margaret Burby.

The India Festival will continue with further dance programmes by India's *crème de la crème* the Dhananjayans who will perform at the IAC auditorium on May 2 and 3 at 7.30 pm.

The climax of the festival will take place on Friday May 4 when over 30,000 Indians are expected to gather at the Kazma Stadium for a spectacular display of floats from all the Indian states.

Border health division to prevent disease

THE director of the Public Health Department and head of the Ports and Borders Health Division at the Public Health Ministry Dr Rashed Al Owaisi has said that the primary function of the department is to prevent the transmission of infections from infested areas into the country.

He said that the department would exercise control of all

forms of transportation, planes, vessels and cars, and also daily passengers.

Penalties

He said the division also examines export manpower for infectious diseases such as the cholera, plague and yellow fever. The department has centres at all border checkpoints, such as

Salmi, Abdali, Nuwaiseeb, and ports in Shuwaikh, Doha, Ahmadi and others. The International Airport has three clinics, containing doctors, nurses, and anti-rodent squads. This team awaits the arrival of ships, cars or planes in the country's territorial waters and undertakes a comprehensive study on their previous ports of call to determine if they are not a "health risk".

prior granting permission of entry.

Even when ships anchor, special squads will inspect it for rodents or people with communicable diseases. He pointed out that failing to give truthful answers to the health inspector's queries entails the enforcement of penalties on the captain. A total of 2,162 ships and 431 launches berthed in 1987, 2,219

and 403 launches in 1988 and 2,641 ships and 1,387 launches in 1989 entered the country.

The division keeps a black-list of all ships which had within five years entered the country and contained rodents. These will be denied access into the country's territorial waters until after the health inspectors go aboard to check that they contain no rodents.

Illiteracy in Kuwait stands at 12.3pc

By Qasem Naei

THE director of the department of anti-illiteracy and education for adults Abdul Aziz Al Najdi has said that the general percentage of illiteracy in Kuwait was 12.3 per cent as of October last year.

Speaking to Al-Sayassah, he said that the number of illiterates among citizens between 15 and 59 years of age are 37,051, equalling 9 per cent, whereas those who can read and write but do not hold anti-illiteracy certificates are 13,379, amounting for 3.3 per cent.

He said that the total number of graduates from the anti-illiteracy classes during 81/82-88/89 totalled 17,148. Graduates from the intermediate and secondary stages are 24,208 and those graduat-

ing from the anti-illiteracy centres during the present year are 1,264.

The number of students registered in the anti-illiteracy evening classes in October last year is 862 males and 3,098 females of whom 370 are registered in the Sabahiya centre for women, while the number of students in the morning classes is 151.

Importers accused of bribing co-op workers

THE chairman of the Union of Co-operative Societies Saad Al Sawaraj accused local importers of being responsible for prominently displaying products of some companies on shelves of co-operative societies by using influence (wasta) and bribing the workers at the co-operatives.

If importers stop paying bribes to workers there will not be any problem in suffer from, he said. He added that the union of foodstuffs importers and manufacturers submitted several complaints about such illegal actions. We have asked the union to name workers or employees who receive such bribes to take legal action against them but, the union claimed that there is no material evidence against any worker, he said.

Sawaraj pointed out that the co-operative movement has negative and positive aspects and added that shelves of supermarkets and branches of co-operatives are considered very important places for importers to market their products. However, he said importers have no need to pay money for advertisements to publicise their goods because co-operatives are visited by a large number of consumers. This increases competition among importers to occupy prime areas in shelves at co-operatives, the official said and added this is a prime factor leading to the use of unethical methods to sell goods.

On the other hand, the deputy chairman of Union of Co-operative Societies Talaq Al Haim said that union succeeded in unifying prices of more than 7,000 items sold at co-operative societies. The union put restrictions and decisions in 1979 to control prices of commodities at co-operatives. He added that union set up a committee to develop these decisions and policies of pricing. The committee consists of teachers from Kuwait University and representatives of relevant authorities as well as some director-generals of co-operatives. The increase of prices at co-operatives was discussed by the union with officials of Ministry of Commerce. We suggested the setting up of a committee consisting of Ministers of commerce and social affairs, and representatives of Chambers of Commerce, the Union of Co-operative Societies, Union of Foodstuffs Importers and Manufacturers and Union of Vegetables and Fruits Importers. He added that the union contracted with importers to supply co-operatives with commodities carrying the co-op trade mark that are needed for the present stage. He added that union trade mark that are needed for the present stage. He added that union does its best to offer all commodities required by consumers and to prevent increase of prices of certain commodities specially that are subjected to control of the union. Co-operatives the official said and all supermarkets and branches of the union does its best to study and added that the prices committee of co-operatives made by importers is legal. The government companies abided by instructions of government to supply co-operatives with some items that disappeared from supermarkets during Ramadan, he said.



Back to work

Deserted roads came alive yesterday morning as people went back to work after a four day break. Traffic chaos and jams were reported in several parts of Kuwait. Arab Times photographer Mohammad Bedaq captures (above) the traffic chaos in Hawalli suburb.

Health network allocated KD22m

THE Ministry of Public Health has allocated a budget of KD22 million for non-construction projects during the next Five Year Plan. A major part of the budget will be specialised for establishment of a data network covering all hospitals and health centres in Kuwait. The budget of non-construction programmes and projects is specialised to finance several programmes like health awareness programmes, health economics and plans to develop performance of health care centres as well as emergency programmes. The budget is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Planning.

773,030 tons of cereal harvested

Automation helps

THE Director of the Plans Resources Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Jassem Hahib Al Bader has said that the total area of land used for growing barley this year is 5,959 dunams, of which 2,052 dunams are located in Wafra and 3,907 in Abdali.

He told a local daily that the total cereal yield harvested last year 88/89 was 773,030 tons, of which 363,000 tons were harvested in Wafra and 409,000 in Abdali. He added that lab experiments on locally grown barley showed that the quality is as good as any species of barley grown elsewhere in the world. In fact, he said it was better and richer in protein, minerals and humidity percentage.

He added that 96 farmers in

Abdali participated in the experimental growth of barley and 143 in Wafra and the total cultivated area was 2,391 dunams. The average per dunum in Abdali reached 135 kg while the yield per dunum in Wafra was 175 kg. This accelerated the efforts to growing strategic crops and rendered necessary changes in the agricultural system. Additionally, this contributed to further exploitation of arable land, particularly unused areas, while farmers accumulated more experience.

Farmers derived more experience in agricultural automation to better exploit harley-growing equipment in line with the locally pursued agricultural system and arable land available, Bader said.

Haj caravans organised to favour pilgrims

A LOCAL daily has carried out a series of interviews with the haj caravan organisers for this season to find out about their preparations and services.

Obeid Faleh Swag said that the organisers agreed to unify the rates on their caravans for this year and the agreement has been a good step in the favour of hajjis. The extra prices are also intended to provide improved services for hajjis.

He said that accommodations have been rented in Medina close to

the Prophet's mosque, following the designation of Aziziya area as meeting ground for all Kuwaiti haj caravans. The site has been described as ideal as it is close to the markets.

Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al Shaye said that new services are introduced for hajjis every haj season. A thorough check of the identity of people registering in his haj caravan will be undertaken for security reasons, as the Ministry of Interior has requested us to provide a list of the names of all hajjis leaving by land, and insisted that all huses used on

the caravans be of recent models above 1980.

He said that each hajji will be charged KD437 for an air ticket to the holy land including transportation, accommodation and other services. The price of the ticket is KD112 and the subscription rate is KD325.

He said that KD350 will be charged per individual going by land on a supermann, KD260 for ordinary huses and KD260 for air-travel excluding the value of the ticket to Medina and Makkah.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IN the midst of great joy do not promise to give a man anything; in the midst of great anger do not answer a man's letter — Chinese proverb.

Workers face bleak future

Vietnamese asked to go

VIENNA. (Reuters): Vietnamese guest workers in Eastern Europe are facing a bleak future after the collapse of communism in the region.

Some 180,000 Vietnamese are employed in several East European countries, where they enjoy conditions and opportunities limited by Western standards but infinitely better than at home.

Communist Vietnam is distinctly unenthusiastic about the reforms in many Eastern European countries but with an economy burdened by unemployment and last September's return of some 10,000 soldiers from Cambodia, it can ill afford to call its workers home.

And now countries which have been close allies through decades of war, poverty and isolation are withdrawing their material and moral support.

Repatriation

Czechoslovakia and East Germany have announced the gradual repatriation of their Vietnamese workers as they tighten their belts to compete with Western market economies.

Some 37,000 Vietnamese are employed in Czechoslovak industry. Milos Brundik, head of the Labour Ministry's foreign employment department, said 5,000 will leave this year, 7,000 in 1991 and 15,000 in 1992. The remainder will be gone by 1995.

Czechoslovakia expects to have 1.4 million unemployed in the second half of 1990. The problem has been exacerbated by a reduction of bureaucracy and the slimming down of the Communist Party hierarchy.

The Vietnamese live in closely-supervised workers' dormitories near their factories but faced with imminent repatriation, some have taken matters into their own hands.

Austria has stepped up security on its border with Czechoslovakia to stop the Vietnamese entering illegally and has apprehended several dozen.

"We have had one or two from the engineering works in Ceske Velenice trying to come over... to get a look at the West like everyone else but we sent them straight back," said Werner Minihold, head of the border post in the Austrian town of Gmünd.

Recognise

The Austrian Interior Ministry says it does not recognise the Vietnamese as political refugees because they arrived in Czechoslovakia when the Communist Party was still in power and it is sending them straight back across the border.

Some 5,300 Cubans currently working in Czechoslovakia will also be leaving by the end of the year. Orthodox Cuba has cancelled an agreement on their employment with Prague's new government.

East Germany drafted in foreign workers partly to fill gaps left by its own citizens emigrating to the West. They are employed mainly in road works and light industry.

But many firms have been keen to shed them as they try to restructure ahead of exposure to free market forces under economic union with West Germany.

The East Berlin government says the 58,400 Vietnamese, together with 15,100 Mozambicans and smaller contingents of Cubans, Poles and Angolans will return home at the end of their contracts.

Since the opening of the Berlin Wall last November, between 2,000 and 3,000 Vietnamese have crossed to the West. In March, 1,259 Vietnamese sought asylum in West Germany compared with 703 the month before.

Agreement

In Bulgaria, where about 24,000 Vietnamese are employed in factories and the building industry, the government has also pledged to reconsider its agreement with Hanoi but says those who are there must be allowed to finish their contracts.

There is increasing concern over the ease with which some escape official supervision and devote themselves to profitable black market dealing, sharing the identity papers of a Vietnamese who is working officially.

Official figures show that in 1988 and 1989, 300 appeared in Sofia courts, about half for illegal trading and the other half for violent crimes. Forty-two were deported from Bulgaria.

The ruling Socialist Party daily Duma says some of the Vietnamese workers form a well-organised mafia dealing in currency and prescription drugs with contacts in neighbouring Balkan states.

Sofia has a district dubbed "Saigon", where Bulgarians say anything is available for any currency at any hour.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1517 — "Evil May Day" riots in London as apprentices attack foreign residents. 60 rioters later are hanged.
- 1552 — England declares war on France and Scotland.
- 1648 — Scots begin second civil war.
- 1700 — Saxon troops invade Livonia, marking start of Great Northern war.
- 1703 — Chushingura incident occurs in Japan when Kiva Yoshinaka is slain by supporters of late Lord of Aki.
- 1707 — Union between England and Scotland is formed under name Great Britain.
- 1819 — Freedom of the press is introduced in France.
- 1896 — Nasir ud din, Shah of Persia, is murdered.
- 1925 — Cyprus is declared a British crown colony.
- 1937 — US president Franklin D. Roosevelt signs US neutrality act.
- 1942 — Japanese forces take Mandalay, Burma, in World War II while British retreat along Chindwin Valley to India.
- 1963 — Netherlands New Guinea, former Dutch territory, is transferred from United Nations custody and is named West Timor.
- 1974 — UN General Assembly rejects \$4 billion aid programme proposed by United States, and approves instead Third World programme that would establish special fund to aid poor countries.
- 1977 — May Day rally in Istanbul turns into gun battle between leftists and Turkish police.
- 1986 — Millions of blacks stay away from jobs and schools in what is described as largest anti-apartheid protest in South African history.
- 1987 — Pope John Paul II beatifies Jewish-born nun killed at Auschwitz Nazi death camp.
- 1988 — Police clash with demonstrators throughout Poland as thousands heed labour group Solidarity's call for "national day of protest".
- 1989 — Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia changes country's name and flag.

Arms control hits a snag

Soviet Union hardens stance

WASHINGTON. (Reuters): Progress towards two East-West arms control treaties has stalled, and US officials say political weakness may have forced Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to harden his stance.

Negotiations on both the strategic arms reduction treaty (Start) and the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) issue made spectacular advances early this year with major breakthroughs.

But progress halted three weeks ago during Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Washington. Issues Washington thought had been stalled appeared to unravel.

"The Soviets rowed back on air-launched and sea-launched missiles," said one official. "It's possible that the Soviet military had showed their displeasure at the way things were going and this forced Gorbachev to take a tougher line."

Pressure

According to this argument, the loss of Eastern Europe plus the prospect of German unification and breakaway threats from the Baltic republics put pressure on Gorbachev to step back.

"Gorbachev may not be in a position to make further concessions. It may be time for the United States to show flexibility," said Michael Mazarr of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a private think-tank.

Adding to the gloom, talks on an "open skies" agreement allowing reconnaissance flights over each other's territory faltered in Budapest. Officials said earlier hopes a pact could be signed next month had proved too optimistic.

Secretary of State James Baker, testifying before a Senate committee last week, said one problem was that negotiations had been overtaken by swift political developments in Europe.

President George Bush and Gorbachev still hope to announce an agreement on Start at their US summit one month from now, but the detailed treaty language will take several more months.

But Baker said: "We do still have some problems... we've got to thrash out if there's going to be any chance (for) an understanding on the major substantive issues by the time President Bush gets together with President Gorbachev."

Part of the problem is how to define a cruise missile.

Weapon

For sea-launched missiles, the United States wants to include everything with a range of 300 km (187 miles) or more. For air-launched missiles, it proposes starting at 600 km (375 miles) for both types of weapon.

"The United States' proposals are designed to eliminate the maximum number of Soviet missiles while preserving the maximum number of its own. It wants to have its cake and eat it," said Richard Fieldhouse, an arms control expert with the Natural Resources Defence Council, a Washington think-tank.

The Start treaty was originally billed as aiming to halve both superpowers' strategic arsenals. But so many loopholes have been written in that the United

States may actually end up with the right to deploy more nuclear weapons.

Most experts view the CFE talks as a much more significant arms control effort than Start. Agreement would eliminate thousands of tanks, aircraft and missiles from Europe and make significant troop reductions, especially by the Soviet Union.

But the 23-nation talks have bogged down in

technical matters and Soviet negotiator Oleg Grinevsky blamed the West.

He said the talks had yet to reach definitions for tanks, armoured troop-carriers and helicopters, regarded by the West as the crucial weapons for a potential aggressor.

But he and his US counterpart agreed the two sides could still produce a conventional arms treaty on schedule this year.



Korean DMZ heavily fortified

Cold war vestiges still alive

SEOUL, South Korea, April 30, (AP): Once a month the huge sprawling city of Seoul comes to a standstill as shrieking sirens and loudspeakers warn 10 million citizens to seek cover in air-raid shelters.

For 20 minutes the frenzied economic and political capital of South Korea, one of the world's largest cities, is hushed. The only movement along wide boulevards and narrow alleys are green army jeeps on surveillance patrols checking to be certain citizens complied.

Thirty miles (48 kilometres) north, beyond barbed wire and concrete bunkers, lies the most heavily fortified border in the world and one of the last frontiers of the cold war — the demilitarized zone separating South and North Korea.

While Eastern Europe celebrates the collapse of communism and the easing of East-West tensions, the Korean peninsula continues an arms buildup with virtually no signs of detente between the capitalist south and the communist north.

"Nothing remotely comparable to events in Eastern Europe is happening in North Korea," says US Ambassador Donald P. Gregg, "if the hallmark of South Korea is progress, the hallmark of the North is stagnation."

Despite this grim evaluation, the United States, primary sponsor and chief ally of South Korea for four decades, is planning to reduce its 43,000 forces. New economic realities are forcing alterations in the two nations' relationship.

To most South Koreans, the special brotherhood with the United States had a single purpose — to deter or defeat a new invasion from the North. Many Americans see wider economic issues and point to a \$4.7-billion trade imbalance and the current deployment of troops as altruism their country can ill-afford.

Restructuring of delicate bilateral alliances poses tough questions for those trying to protect American interests as well as preserve peace and stability. Can South Korea, which has cost Americans dearly in blood and treasure, become self-reliant as US troops are withdrawn?

Among factors influencing the United States and South Korea are these:

— Communist North Korea has more soldiers, more tanks, more artillery pieces, and more planes than the South, and many analysts say it will hold a military advantage for at least the next five years.

— North Korea is widely believed to be nearing capability to develop a nuclear weapons programme and it reportedly has agreements to sell arms in the Middle East.

— Northeast Asia is unique in that it engages the vital interests of four of the world's great powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan and China. Strategically, US policy has been that no single nation or coalition of nations should control the resources and people of the region.

— Despite all the hostility and suspicion between the two Koreas and all the energy that has been invested in the construction of separate and competitive societies, Koreans continue to cherish the hope — however bleak — of national unification.

The ideological and civil war that began in 1950 between North and South Korea lasted 37 months. More than 5 million Americans served in Korea with 140,000 casualties.

The country was rubble and 2 million South Korean soldiers and civilians had died by the time the armistice was signed in 1953. American forces, the largest contingent among 16 nations who fought on the side of the South, were seen as heroes.

Now radical students yell "Yankee go home," burn effigies of Uncle Sam and stomp American flags painted on roadways at college campuses.

For a quick look at Korea, nothing is quite as sobering as a visit to the barren no man's land along the 2.5-mile-wide (four-kilometre-wide) demilitarized zone, rimmed with barbed wire, bunkers and guardposts along both sides of the 155-mile-long (250-kilometre-long) border.

Soldiers in flak vests and helmets carry loaded automatic weapons and focus their sights directly into enemy territory. Sentries with binoculars watch communist guards from behind sandbagged guardposts.

Clashes along the border are fewer than they used to be, but incidents still occur.

In February, on the eve of a visit by US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney, 20 shots from a North Korean guardpost hit a South Korean guardpost. There were no injuries. The South did not return the fire.

In March, US and South Korean forces unearthed what they said was an invasion tunnel dug under the border by North Korea. This was the fourth such tunnel found and the Korean defence minister said there could be as many as 20 more.

The ultimate question is, can South Korea can deter communist aggression? Can it become self-reliant?

Few military systems have been affected by other powers as profoundly as that of South Korea. The United States helped create the country's armed forces, designed its organizational structure and

selected its first officers.

South Korea this spring is embarking on an ambitious military improvement programme that entails modernizing its forces by purchasing new weaponry, developing its aerospace programme, changing its defence hierarchy and democratizing its military.

President Rob Tae-Woo, a former general, calls it the "Koreanization" of the military and it's a major step toward creating an armed force seen as more Korean and less American.

The centrepiece of the South Korean military is the prestigious Korean Military Academy founded in 1946 and consciously modelled on the US military academy at West Point.

All of South Korea's presidents have been KMA graduates since Park Chung-Hee, who gained power in a 1961 military coup with some of his classmates. The 11th class in 1955 produced former president Chun Doo-Hwan and his successor, Roh.

Although civilian control of the military is taught at the academy, the sense of professional elitism, an almost puritanical ethical code and a devotion to national service has led in the past to a willingness by the military to take over the reins of government if a threat to national security was perceived.

The 650,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in service are better fed, better trained and better housed than ever before.

In military terms, North Korea seems to have more of everything. More soldiers, more tanks, more planes, more submarines and more artillery.

The majority of communist troops are deployed offensively near the border. North Korean missiles could reach Seoul in two to three minutes, bombers in eight minutes, tanks in two to three hours.

Is there any hope of an arms reduction between the Koreas?

On April 4, South Korea formally agreed to a US plan to cut back 7,000 of the 43,000 American troops by 1993, all non-combatants. They include 2,000 air support personnel assigned to three US air bases.

This was called the first stage of US withdrawal. Further cuts could come in 1994-95 after a review of the military situation on the peninsula. Third-stage cuts would come after 1996.

North Korea has demanded a withdrawal of all US troops.

Seoul and Washington want North Korea to reciprocate. South Korean Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon has said he expects arms control talks in the middle 1990s after concluding a non-aggression pact and a peace treaty.

Letters to the editor

Entrance exams

SIR: This refers to a letter titled Contradictions by MUJ Shaikh in Arab Times of April 24, 1990. Shaikh's letter was in response to a letter published earlier (cheating epidemic, dated April 8, 1990) and it seems that Shaikh is trying to reduce the impact of the news about cheating and justify the cheating for American Universities Entrance Exams. The point which should be made is that cheating in exams, if accepted as a norm, shows lack of discipline and character in the society and therefore, should be discouraged at any cost.

Secondly, the author has missed the fundamental point in the admission process in major colleges and universities in the US. I had personally gone through the process of admission to UC Berkeley and would like to say that for foreign students, the exams like GRE, SAT, etc. are of primary importance in admission into Ivy League schools.

It is true that they ask for school grades as well but do not use them for their final decision. The reason is obvious. Schools all over the world follow different scoring criteria and it is very difficult for the American universities to compare the grades, since they have to select few students amongst thousands. With students from American schools the criteria is somewhat different but nevertheless Ivy League schools require high GRE scores from them as well.

Ubedur Rahmat Arain, Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Nepal

Democracy unleashes conflicts

KATHMANDU. (Reuters): Nepal's democracy movement has unleashed long-repressed conflicts in the Himalayan kingdom, forcing a liberal government into alliance with King Birendra to hold a fragile centre.

A cabinet of one-time political prisoners has had to call out troops to enforce dusk-to-dawn curfews in the capital to curb mass fervour for revenge on those who policed and enjoyed semi-feudal privilege.

Angry police, mourning six colleagues beaten to death by anti-monarchist mobs, staged their own protest in Kathmandu on Wednesday shouting "We will take revenge."

Nepal's rapid population growth has put a mass of literate but unemployed youth onto the streets, looking for conflict as a short-cut to utopia.

"The government has been using the word revolution very lightly," said a Western development aid worker. "The problem is the mass behind the government may well be revolutionary."

Nepal's political economy has for decades been dominated by high-caste Hindus alienating a dozen other ethnic groups whose beliefs have more to do with Buddhism and whose living standards are among the lowest in the world.

The king's vacillation before lifting a 29-year-old ban on political parties built up tensions and shattered taboos on criticizing the royal family.

Now Kathmandu has heard crowds chanting "The wife is fat, the husband foolish," the king is having difficulty asserting his theologically absolute authority on either his own behalf or that of the government.

Queen Aishwarya is popularly known as Pampha Devi after underground legends alleged a Nepalese woman of this name held \$3.5 billion in Swiss bank accounts and asked archly: "Who could this be?"

The king let liberal and communist democracy campaigners take office this month after police on April 6 shot dead dozens of demonstrators, fuelling militancy.

Hesitant most of the seven-week democracy campaign 200 km (125 miles) away in the tourist town of Pokhara, where official sources said hardliners under the queen-held sway in the royal camp.

Diplomats believe the king is now trying to give the new government enough authority to enable evolutionary change. Elderly liberal ministers are battling to convince the crowds that he is co-operating out of love for the people.

But the ministers have been thrust from dissent to office without the inside knowledge they need to command a bureaucracy long controlled through a secretive palace secretariat.

The volatile capital is convinced that the queen is plotting to seize control and that the king, although more liberal, will not concede what is now a minimum popular demand, a monarchy with purely symbolic powers.

Many youths in the Kathmandu Valley have become openly republican.

"Even if the king is a nice, straight, boy scout type of fellow, he comes from an extended family," said the aid worker.

"The palace can compromise to a certain extent. But if you're talking about stripping the royal family of its business assets, its aristocratic privileges, you're talking about revolution."

Diplomats say they believed the army, arguably the only institution in Nepal which remains united behind the king, would intervene to stop his overthrow.

Many of Nepal's 35,000 troops have been blooded in Lebanon as members of a United Nations monitoring force. A lot of officers are afraid this place is going to break up into the horrors they've seen there," said one diplomat.

Soldiers have been protected by barracks life from popular pressure to abandon faith in the king as a bulwark of national identity.

Officers were angry with palace hardliners but would resist a complete emasculating of the monarchy which would put them under orders from an elected defence minister, diplomats said.

One dismissed popular rumour that the army might intervene to install the queen, who is related to many in the high command, as the power behind a throne occupied by her son Crown Prince Dipendra or by Birendra's brother Prince Gyanendra.

"They know the queen is the most unpopular person in Nepal," he said.

"They'll try to back the king. There's a lot of heart-searching going on. A coup is not inconceivable."

QUOTE ME

"We are not underestimating that many difficult problems need to be solved. With the transition of this washed-up socialist economy to a social market economy, we are treading in many ways on unknown turf. Basically, this undertaking cannot be compared to any other. Such a task requires from us all our courage, energy, imagination and politically creative will. All budgets — federal, of the states and of the communities — must and are able to make their own contributions." — Rudolf Seiters, Kohl's chief of staff asking W. Germans to help revive the E. German economy.

"The last thing I want in the world is to start to date. I love my last husband. Men are the last thing on my mind and I do not want my husband's lawyers to misinterpret my going out socially with friends or having male employees." — Ivana Trump on why she annulled an agreement that would have given her the freedom to date.

"I'm sure people are surprised I've done as much so fast. But it counts more that the team also has played well. I think any player would tell you that individual accomplishments help you go. But if you don't win, it makes for a very, very long season." — David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs after winning the NBA's Rookie of the Year award.

"The first game is very important. If you lose it you can keep the homecourt advantage. We turned up our defence a notch. Our fourth quarter defense unleashed everything. We started to rebound and got our transition game going." — Michael Jordan after defeating the Milwaukee Bucks in the first of best-of-five series in the NBA playoffs.

Handwritten signature: محمد علي

BUSINESS & FINANCE

American personal income up

WASHINGTON, April 30, (AP): US personal income rose 0.8 per cent for the third straight month in March, the government said today, while consumer spending dropped 0.4 per cent, its lowest level in five months.

The difference means that Americans' saving rate — savings as a per cent of disposable income — was up one-half percentage point to 5.8 per cent.

Consumer spending is watched closely as a barometer of economic health since it accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

The Commerce Department said incomes totalled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.67 trillion on top of 0.8 per cent jumps in both January and February. The increases originally were reported to have been 0.7 per cent in January and 0.9 per cent in February.

Consumer spending totalled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.66 trillion after a 0.6 per cent gain in February. It was the lowest since a 0.3 per cent advance last October.

"The March and February increases in personal income were boosted by increases in subsidy payments to farm proprietors," the department said. "Excluding these payments, personal income increases \$24.6 billion, or 0.5 per cent, in March and 28.9 billion, or 0.6 per cent, in February."

The report said Americans' income after taxes rose 0.8 per cent in March, the largest increase since a 0.9 per cent gain last December.

The key component of the income category, wages and salaries, rose \$14.1 billion at annual rate after a \$22 billion gain in February.

On the spending side, the increase in personal consumption, which includes everything except interest payments on debt, totalled \$13.8 billion, down from 21.3 billion in February.

Purchases of durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years — fell \$6.8 billion.

Jordan to get Kuwaiti loan

AMMAN, April 30, (Reuters): Jordan's Industrial Development Bank (IDB) is to get KDS million (\$17 million) from a Kuwaiti fund to help finance private sector projects, the official news agency Petra said today.

It said the loan, to be given by the Kuwaiti Fund for Socio-Economic Development, would help IDB finance private sector tourism and industrial projects that are part of its 1990-1993 investment plan estimated to cost \$95 million.

The loan, guaranteed by the Jordanian government, is spread over 17 years including a five year grace period and would be repaid in 24 six-month instalments. The first is due on July 1, 1995 and the last on January 1, 2007.

The loan will have a 3.5 per cent annual interest rate and a 0.5 per cent annual management fee. Planning Minister Awmi Al Maari signed the loan agreement and loan guarantee accord with the fund's head Badr Mashari Hmeidi.

The Kuwaiti fund has over the past decade given Jordan 24 easy term loans worth KD124.6 million (\$424 million) that were spent on irrigation, agriculture, industry, mining, tourism and roads.

Trade deficit widens

ALGIERS, April 30, (Reuters): Algeria's trade deficit rose to 2,013 million dinars (\$257 million) in the fourth quarter of 1989, the official daily El Mondjahid quoted today the National Statistics Office as saying.

It said this compared with a 1,200 million dinar (\$153 million) deficit in the third quarter of 1989 and an 887 million dinar (\$113 million) surplus in the last quarter of 1988.

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PNG oil consortium to seek development licence

SYDNEY, April 30, (Reuters): The consortium behind Papua New Guinea's first oil project, the \$311 million laguna-Hedina Development, will apply to the government for a development licence tomorrow.

Papua New Guinea, suffering severely from revenue losses since the giant Bougainville copper mine was forced to close in May, 1989, by rebel landowners, is unlikely to refuse the application, political and oil-industry analysts say.

Once approval is granted the consortium expects to begin work that will enable it to produce 100,000 barrels of oil a day in 1992.

The consortium, headed by Chevron Niugini, a subsidiary of America's Chevron Corporation, says it has learned from the lessons of Bougainville and tries hard to iron out any potential sources of conflict with local landowners well in advance.

Unlike Bougainville, laguna-Hedina in the southern highlands province of Papua New Guinea has no history of secessionist feeling and also has a relatively sparse population.

"Bougainville is a different world," said Bob Williams, general manager of consortium member oil search.

"Bougainville is in relatively densely populated country where the open pit

mine has greatly disturbed local landowners, disrupting agriculture and fishing. That land has been destroyed forever," Williams told Reuters.

Land needed for the oil project, which includes a 270 km (170 mile) underground pipeline to the coast, is 800 hectares (2,000 acres). The Bougainville mine site is 13,000 hectares (32,000 acres), he said.

Offices have been set up to answer landowners' questions and the road to the project has been re-routed at their suggestion to better meet local needs.

"I'm not saying we're not going to have any problems," Williams said. "Probably eventually we will have

labour and land problems but I hope the work we've done so far means we'll be able to solve them."

Brad Le Du, Chevron's Niugini's manager of land and government relations, said discussions were still going on with landowners about compensation for land damage from the pipeline. They would get no revenue directly from the project, he said, but hoped to gain from increased government spending on services.

The Papua New Guinea government is entitled to up to 22.5 per cent of the project with no contribution to construction costs.

It will also receive a 1.25 per cent

royalty on the value of oil produced and 50 per cent income tax from other consortium members.

It expects total revenue from the project of \$100 million a year, government sources say, which would help make up for an estimated annual loss of \$155 million in foreign exchange earnings from the closure of Bougainville.

For the other partners, the 150 million barrels of reserves in the laguna-Hedina field are enough inducement to establish the project. But the real attraction is the hope of future discoveries in Papua New Guinea, where oil exploration has multiplied five-fold in the past two years.

"The project itself, assuming the oil price doesn't fall through the floor, will be sufficient to justify the money spent," said Williams. "But the real cream would come from subsequent developments."

The pipeline for the project will be built to cope with a maximum flow rate of 350,000 barrels a day, more than three times the capacity of current field reserves.

"I suspect that (the extra capacity) will be used eventually, if not by us then by somebody else," said Chevron project general manager John Lyle. "There's a lot of drilling going on in PNG."

Oil exporters try to persuade UAE to cut output

Opec to prop up oil prices

LONDON, April 30, (Agencies): Opec ministers gather in emergency session on Wednesday to try to prop up oil prices, which have fallen sharply in recent weeks because Gulf members of the organisation are overstepping their quotas.

Analysts believe the ministers are aiming at their meeting in Geneva for a voluntary cut of 1 million barrels a day in output during May and June.

"I think the market needs to see something at least like that to sustain prices," said Lucy Mullins, an oil analyst with the London investment firm Barclays de Zoete Wedd Ltd.

Such a cut likely would only steady prices because the market already has strengthened somewhat on hopes the meeting will produce results, analysts said. Whether such cuts will actually materialise remains to be seen, they said.

The actual follow-through in the spot market may be quite limited," said Stephen Turner, an oil analyst with the London investment firm Smith New Court Plc.

North Sea Brent blend, the



Sheikh Ali

most widely traded international crude oil, fetched a spot price of \$16.45 a barrel in London this afternoon, up 5 cents from Friday.

Analysts estimate Opec currently is producing about 23.5 million barrels a day, exceeding the ceiling of 22.1 million barrels a day the organisation set for the first half of 1990.

The meeting was called by Sadek Boussena, Algeria's oil minister and president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, on April 19 because of concern about the

unusually sharp price slide. The meeting is expected to last one or two days.

The gathering officially is of the eight-member monitoring committee, which only reviews markets and makes recommendations. But all 13 ministers are expected to attend, which means a full emergency conference can be called immediately.

Even so, the ministers aren't expected to grapple with their official quotas and minimum reference price of \$18 a barrel until they hold their full, regular midyear conference on June 25.

Boussena is directing intensive contacts among Opec members to reach consensus on voluntary cuts before Wednesday, the Middle East Economic Survey, a Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter, reported today.

A contentious gathering could have a negative impact on oil markets.

The newsletter said the United Arab Emirates, one of the main overproducers, "is regarded as the toughest nut to crack, given the UAE's track record and the easy marketability of its high quality crude."

Kuwait's Oil Minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifah, apparently has indicated that Kuwait will trim production if other producers do so, too, the newsletter said.

"Saudi Arabia would probably have a similar position, of readiness to contribute to an agreed temporary output, but not to go below its current quota," it said.

Analysts say the overproduction has created a glut just when demand weakens in the April-June period.

This has prompted the unusually sharp price slide, and created fears that prices will collapse as in 1986, when they fell as low as \$10 a barrel in a glutted market.

The average price of a basket of seven crude monitored by Opec sank to \$15.37 per 42-gallon barrel last week, well below the organisation's \$18 minimum reference price.

The basket price was \$17.12 a barrel in the first week of April.

Some Opec states, alarmed at a slump in oil prices, are urging the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to agree to cut its output at a meeting, an oil newsletter said.

Oil income exceeds estimate

NICOSIA, April 30, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, said its oil income in the first quarter of 1990 was five per cent higher than it had forecast.

In the first three months of 1990 economic development continued to rise in various sectors including a rise of about five per cent in oil income over the budget estimate," the Saudi Press Agency on Sunday quoted Finance and National Economy Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abul-Khalil as saying.

He gave no figure for oil income, the kingdom's main source of revenue. Riyadh pumped 5.71 million barrels per day (BPD) in March according to a Reuters survey. Its Opec sales quota is 5.38 BPD.

Saudi Arabia published its budget for the whole of 1990, planning a deficit of 25 billion riyals (\$6.7 billion), at the end of last year. Total budget spending was forecast at 143 billion riyals (\$38 billion).

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will meet in Geneva on May 2 to discuss oil output. World prices have tumbled in recent weeks.

US finding out recession may be inflation's only cure

WASHINGTON, April 30, (Reuters): The United States is finding out that licking deeply-imbedded inflation is not all that easy and that it may have to suffer an economic recession to do the trick.

Despite another quarter of sub-par economic growth, US inflation jumped to its highest level in eight years in the first three months of 1989 — rising at a 6.5 per cent annual rate, as measured by the fixed price deflator.

Although that probably exaggerates the price problem, economists said underlying inflation has remained stubbornly at about four to five per cent for the past seven years.

"To get inflation down, you almost certainly have to have a recession," said John Paulus, managing director at Morgan Stanley.

But he questioned whether the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, has the gumption or the public support now to push interest rates up high enough to do that.

"The Fed is not going to take a pre-emptive strike against inflation because it is too politically risky," Paulus said.

Many economists believe the Central Bank is closer to tightening policy now than it has been for about a year, but that it still lacks the explicit economic evidence it needs to take that politically unpopular step.

A Federal Reserve source called the rapid 8.5 per cent annualised increase in consumer prices in the first quarter "horrendous." But he said he thought the data overstated the inflation problem and that recent rises in clothing and housing costs were unlikely to stick, given the soft economy.

Administration officials have also made clear that they do not favour a rise in interest rates that would slow growth, swell the budget deficit and possibly hurt the Republican Party in congressional elections later this year.

One official said policymakers of President George Bush would like a bit faster growth and a bit lower interest rates.

Another said the administration was putting the finishing touches on a report on the costs of US capital that would call for continued downward pressure on interest rates to

help make US industry more competitive.

These conflicting currents will make the decision whether to tighten that much tougher when the policy-making Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) next meets on May 15.

"The jury is probably out until the meeting in May," said Jeffrey Leeds, managing director for Chemical Bank.

So far, the US central bank has tried to bring down inflation gradually, following a monetary policy that ensures continued economic growth, but at lacklustre pace.

That is exactly what happened in the first quarter, when Gross National Product expanded by 2.1 per cent. Although that was significantly faster than the 1.1 per cent pace of the last three months of 1989, it was still slower than what most economists consider the economy's long-run potential.

But the sharp acceleration in price rises during the period has caused some economists to question whether the Federal Reserve's strategy of slowly wringing inflation out of the economy will do the job.

Share markets drift lower

Dollar steady, gold dips

LONDON, April 30, (Reuters): The dollar ended barely changed in quiet European trading today and dealers expected financial markets to remain subdued for most of the week because of holidays in Japan and Europe. Gold prices fell.

Major share markets drifted lower with investors reluctant to do business before tomorrow's May Day holiday, when most European exchanges, apart from London, will be closed.

Britain celebrates May Day on May 8. Dealers said a series of holidays in Japan, today, Thursday and Friday this week, also reduced European business.

"It's likely to be quiet all week. Any action we see will likely be in cross trading against the mark," said dealer Brett Little at Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank in New York.

The dollar firmed a touch against the mark on news of wildcat one-day strikes by metal workers at several engineering firms in southern Germany, including car maker Mercedes-Benz, to press demands for higher wages and shorter working hours.

IG Metall, West Germany's largest union, said if it did not get a 35-hour week and a nine per cent rise for its members, it would decide next week whether to ballot for a national strike. Employers have offered a five per cent rise.

"The sword hanging over the Deutsche mark is the IG Metall talks," a currency dealer in Frankfurt said.

The dollar closed in London at 1.6788 marks, after 1.6775 on Friday. Against the yen it was at 158.85 after 159.10.

The metal workers' stoppages hit the Frankfurt stock

market, which slipped in very quiet pre-holiday trading. "Turnover was very small," said one Frankfurt trader. "We could have closed the market around noon."

The 30-share Dax index shed 12.27 points to close at 1,813.25, after losing 58.81 points last week.

In London, stocks closed a shade weaker after Wall Street eased slightly at the opening.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares ended 3.2 points off at 2,103.4.

The British pound rose to \$1.6390 from \$1.6360 late Friday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Friday, were:

■ 1.6787 West German marks, up from 1.6755.

■ 1.4512 Swiss francs, down from 1.4560.

■ 5.6335 French francs, up from 1.8845.

■ 1.8884 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8845.

■ 1.230.50 Italian lire, up from 1.228.00.

■ 1.1649 Canadian dollars, up from 1.1632.

Bullion dealers said trading was thin with traders taking today off ahead of tomorrow's holiday in much of Europe.

"Right now, things don't look very good for gold, even with the dollar so weak," said one dealer in Zurich.

Gold fell in London to a late bid price of \$367.50 a troy ounce, down from \$370.75 bid late Friday.

In Zurich, the metal fell to a closing bid of \$367.00, down from 370.00 dollars bid late Friday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold fell 37 cents to close at a bid 372.55.

Silver bullion fell in London to a late bid price of \$4.92 a troy ounce, down from \$4.95 bid late Friday.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, April 30, (Reuters): Australia's share market plunged in afternoon trade to finish sharply weaker, with leading industrial stocks down on bearish sentiment. The All Ordinaries index fell 21.9 points to 1,434.5.

TOKYO: The market was closed for a holiday.

HONG KONG: Stock prices ended lower on a lack of buying interest with investors staying on the sidelines as overseas markets weakened. The Hang Seng index ended 36.24 down at 2,950.09.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed at the day's lows in lethargic trading as increased selling in the afternoon brought stocks down across the board. The Straits Times index fell 12.04 to 1,458.40.

BOMBAY: Share prices rose cautiously in volatile trading after a long weekend, overcoming selective selling by mutual funds. The Bombay Stock Exchange rose 1.55 to 795.13.

FRANKFURT: Share prices finished lower after very quiet pre-holiday trading, with metalworkers' wildcat strikes putting additional pressure on the market. The Dax index shed 12.27 to close at 1,813.25.

PARIS: French shares closed lower in a quiet market, with traders breaking off early to enjoy the fine spring weather ahead of Tuesday's May Day holiday. The CAC index closed 19.81 down at 2,046.46.

Gas pipeline planned

ALGIERS, April 30, (Reuters): Algeria hopes to have a gas pipeline to Europe through Morocco ready by the middle of the decade, Mines Minister Sadek Boussena said in an interview published today.

"The problem we have to solve for the Western pipeline is that of markets. Who wants to buy gas through it, when and in what quantities? We foresee that between 1990 and the year 2000 certain countries will need larger quantities," he told the Algiers newspaper Horizons.

"Consequently we want this pipeline to be in place by the middle of the 1990s or a little later," he added.

The interview is also being published in the specialist weekly Gas Intelligence.

Boussena said the pipeline could supply gas to West Germany, which could then relay it to eastern Europe. Portugal was also a possible customer, though shipments of Algerian liquefied natural gas were another option, he said.

Algeria and Morocco have started detailed talks on the pipeline, which would cross the strait of Gibraltar into Spain.

He said finance for the project would not be an obstacle. "All the signals indicate that financing would be available."

"Algeria was in contact with East European countries on gas sales but the discussions were moving slowly because of political changes, he added.

"We're going through a period of change, not of decision... the changes have been so fast that we do not have a clear picture on how to share out the quantities or on the timetable," he said.

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BUSINESS

India won't negotiate under threat of retaliation

NEW DELHI, April 30, (Reuters): India, isolated on Washington's trade hit list for erecting barricades against foreign competition, still insists it will not negotiate under threat of retaliation.

Officials today declined comment on India being named by the United States as an unfair trader for the second straight year, pending an official response to Washington.

But Prime Minister Vishwanath Singh told Indian reporters at the weekend India could not overlook its social priorities and would never negotiate trade treaties under threat.

Other Asian countries have been put on a "watch list," mostly for not protecting copyrights and patents, but escaped the threat of trade sanctions by negotiating with Washington over its trade gripes, Asian diplomats said.

US President George Bush, in a statement released by the White House on Friday, said India again would be named under the so-called Super 301 clause of the 1988 trade act because issues cited last year remain unresolved.

Japan and Brazil were also branded unfair traders by the United States last year, but were taken off this year's list.

"Threats of retaliation are things of the medieval past," Commerce Minister Arun Nehru told Reuters earlier this month. "We don't negotiate under threat."

The Bush administration cited India for obstructing foreign investment and refusing to allow US companies to do business in the nationalised insurance industry.

The United States, India's largest trading partner, will decide in six weeks whether to slap punitive tariffs of up to 100 per cent on Indian exports.

Ranjan Singh, president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry said today India had taken gradual steps to open up to foreign investment and imports.

"This process of internationalisation of the Indian economy has been gathering momentum," he said.

"Unheeding this trend, the US with a per capita income of \$19,800 has chosen to take retaliatory action against India, whose per capita income does not exceed \$350."

India, which has promised to slash the red tape that frustrates foreign investors, peeved Washington in March by refusing to allow the Coca Cola company to set up a plant that would mostly export soft drinks.

Washington is also irritated that India has been outspoken in opposing moves to include protection of intellectual property in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Delhi-based diplomats said.

Taiwan last year escaped Super 301 branding by sending a team of high officials to Washington for last-minute lobbying, during which they promised that Taipei would cut its trade surplus with Washington by 10 per cent each year.

Other countries on the watch list include China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand.

Diplomats in Indonesia, where piracy of music tapes flourished a few years ago, said Jakarta had enacted legislation to protect intellectual property under strong US pressure.

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.000
Sri Lankan rupee	7.430
Pakistani rupee	13.570
Bangladesh taka	2.940
US dollar	5.330
Pound sterling	4.775
UAE dirham	0.8003
Deutsche mark	17.520
Japanese yen	101.857

Japan pleased at not being named, but war not over

WASHINGTON, April 30, (AP): Japan saw a battle won in not being named an unfair merchant by the United States this year, but politicians and businessmen in both countries said the trade war is not over.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said in a statement in Tokyo yesterday that Japan welcomed the US decision "as the proper one."

"It has been the policy of the government of Japan that economic issues between Japan and the United States should be resolved through dialogue in the spirit of co-operation and joint efforts," he said.

The disputes involve the toughest section of the 1988 trade law, known as Super 301. Under the Super 301 provision, if intensive negotiations aimed at removing trade barriers are unsuccessful, the president has the power to retaliate with higher US tariffs on

imports from the offending country.

Last year Japan, Brazil and India were cited under Super 301.

President George Bush announced Friday that this year he had decided to cite only India as a "priority nation" under Super 301.

India has steadfastly refused to modify for its restrictive trade policies, which are designed to protect domestic industries by limiting foreign investment and imposing high import duties.

Ever since India first was targeted, the governments of Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister from 1984 through 1989, and V.P. Singh, who took office last December, have maintained that the US trade law unfairly penalised developing nations.

Yesterday, the Indian government had not yet responded to Bush's announcement.

Bush said he was citing only India this

year because of that country's refusal to remove its barriers to foreign investment and foreign insurance companies. Bush said Japan and Brazil had made moves to open their markets.

But in an editorial yesterday, Japan's nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun said US retaliation may still come if Japan can show only little improvement in opening its market.

Nakayama promised Japan will continue to promote good economic relations with the United States and co-operate in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

But lawmakers in the United States were not convinced that Bush should have eased the pressure on Japan.

"Letting Japan off the hook is a serious mistake and I think Congress ought to take a look at it," said Sen. Robert Byrd, a Democrat. Bush is a

Republican, but Democrats control the US Senate.

The Super 301 provision was due to expire after this year, but several members of Congress said they planned to push for it to be extended indefinitely, thus forcing the administration to face the question of targeting Japan in future years.

Two senators, Democrat Carl Levin of Michigan and Republican Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, said they planned to introduce a bill taking away the administration's discretion over whether to target Japan.

Their measure would require the president to target any country for negotiations if its trade surplus accounted for 15 per cent or more of America's overall trade deficit.

If that provision had been in effect last year, it would have applied only to Japan. America's \$49-billion deficit with

India urged to open its closed markets

Asia expected to continue leading world's growth

Other challenges could come from Eastern Europe in its competition with Asia for loans from development institutions and commercial banks.

But Dowling and Choo said they believed such a possibility was slight. Dowling said Eastern Europe's total population of about 160 million people and its limited area restrict its ability to "absorb huge amounts of capital."

Asia also has never relied heavily on the concessionary, or low-interest, loans sought by East European countries. With 65 per cent of the world's population, Asia consumes 30 per cent of the concessionary loans, Choo said.

The economists and the report said Asia would be able to maintain its economic lead if its member countries further embraced free-market forces and introduced newer technology.

But China and India were criticized for failing to open their economies to the outside world.

China saw its economic growth rate fall from almost 11 per cent in 1988 to 4 per cent last year, the report said, blaming the drop on an austerity programme carried out by hardline Premier Li Peng.

The report called on Beijing to "push the unfinished agenda of economic reform forward."

Choo said it was "anybody's guess" what would happen in Beijing because the Communist Party and government leadership appear more concerned with political control of the people than with economic development.

"This question goes beyond economics," he said.

Last June, Chinese troops killed hundreds of demonstrators and launched a bloody crackdown on a movement for freedom. Since then, the Asian Development Bank has stopped all loans to Beijing, freezing \$490 million for six projects.

The Chinese delegation is urging the bank to end its freeze, but bank officials said Monday they did not expect a decision to be made during the meeting in New Delhi.

The report predicted that China's growth rate would rise a bit to 5.5 per cent in 1990 and hit a healthy 6.5 per cent the year after. As a corollary to this, it forecast that Hong Kong's growth, which fell from 7.3 per cent in 1988 to 3.6 per cent in 1989, would continue its fall until 1991.

India must relax constraints on free market activity for sustained growth to occur, the report said. Last year, India's growth rate fell to 4.5 per cent, down from 9.5 per cent in 1988.

Restrictive economic policies protect India's major industries from competition from abroad. The lack of competition allows production of shoddy goods to continue, along with close, and often corrupt, relations between

business and government.

Last week, the United States left India as the sole country on a "hit list" for unfair trading practices. India faces economic sanctions if it does not reform its policies.

The Asian Development Bank report called for such changes, saying that under India's current programme, "the innovative spirit of the private sector is, to some extent, repressed and a competitive business environment not ensured."

It predicted growth in India would rise slightly to 5.4 per cent in 1990.

The report said Vietnam was notable for its market-oriented reforms and predicted that its strong 8.2 per cent growth rate would continue this year.

Growth in the Philippines is expected to fall in 1990 to 5 per cent from 6 per cent in 1989, the report said. Political instability, resulting from last year's coup attempt, and high interest rates are the major limiting factors, it said.

Bid to attract foreign capital

AMF chief maps out strategy for 1990s

ABU DHABI, April 30, (Reuters): Arab countries must develop their financial markets in the 1990s to attract foreign capital in a world that is swiftly moving towards economic blocs, the head of the Arab Monetary Fund said.

The AMF, the Arab equivalent of the International Monetary Fund, does not expect any major rise in its capital base at a time when Arab wealth has declined from the days of oil riches, AMF chairman Osama Jafar Faquih said.

"The fund will have to exert its maximum efforts within its available resources," he told Reuters in written answers to questions from the AMF headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

The AMF, which covers the 21-nation Arab League, is the biggest of five major pan-Arab funds. Three promote economic development, agriculture and

insurance and the other is a \$500 million fund under the AMF wing that promotes inter-Arab

trade. The absence of Arab capital markets to tap domestic wealth, severe trade and other economic imbalances in many Arab states, and a tendency of Arab commercial banks to ignore domestic development has led to great reliance on the pan-Arab funds.

Faquih, a former Saudi Arabian undersecretary of finance and economic affairs, has been a champion of greater inter-Arab economic co-operation, especially through development of capital markets.

The 1990s "will be a decade of regional economic groupings (around the world). Our members will find it necessary to pay more attention to the design, implementation, and follow-up of economic adjustment policies," he said.

"The development of Arab financial markets, in which the AMF is actively engaged, should attract Arab as well as foreign capital because a well-managed

and properly conducted capital market can attract funds from any source," added Faquih, who is in his first year as chairman and director-general of the AMF.

"Countries facing imbalances find it more difficult to attract capital from other countries," he said. "The AMF considers the reduction and elimination of such imbalances as crucial macroeconomic management priorities."

Faquih said banks should play a bigger role in channeling the Arab world's savings towards Arab economic needs, rather than repeating past tendencies to invest abroad or in short-term, almost risk-free, loans.

"In many ways, the commercial banking system in our region has been operating below capacity for the past two decades," he said.

"Part of the response of the governments to this situation has been the creation of specialised credit agencies mainly with

government funds to provide financing for agriculture and industry," he said.

Many of the agencies suffered as Arab wealth declined with the oil price collapse of the mid-1980s, and world interest rates rose.

Faquih said creating ever more official funding organisations was not an answer to investment problems.

He added he was encouraged by the creation of two new Arab economic groups in the past year or so. Five North African states have formed the Maghreb Union while Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen formed the Arab Co-operation Council.

He urged the new groups and other Arab countries to follow the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in forging closer economic ties in trade and finance.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Malaysia welcomes Taiwanese investments

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30, (Reuters): Taiwan has become the largest investor in the fast-growing economy of Malaysia even though it has no diplomatic ties with that country, officials said on Monday.

"We don't like to get embroiled with diplomatic problems," Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said after talks with Taiwan's visiting Economic Minister Chen Li-an.

"We deal with each other in economic terms," she said. Malaysia recognises communist-ruled China, although trade and investment with wealthy nationalist-controlled Taiwan has been rising sharply.

Taiwan was the second-largest investor behind Japan in 1988 and 1989, and Rafidah released figures showing Taiwan had outstripped Japan so far this year.

She said Taiwanese firms had applied to invest in projects worth 433 million ringgit (\$160 million) of a total 1.2 billion ringgit (444 million) for the first three months of this year.

"This is the highest in the number of projects as well as value," Rafidah said.

For calendar year 1989, total foreign investment in Malaysia was 2.16 billion ringgit (\$800 million), of which Taiwanese investments accounted for 1.07 billion ringgit (\$396 million).

She said Taiwan was expected to maintain its dominant position, as Malaysia has recently approved a proposal by China Steel Corp to build a mammoth eight billion ringgit (\$2.96 billion) steel plant in the country.

A Taiwan firm, China General Plastic, is also building an 8.5 billion ringgit (\$3.15 billion) petrochemical project in the southern Malaysian state of Johor.

Rafidah said Beijing had protested each of three visits she made to Taiwan between 1987 and 1989 to boost trade and investment.

A Chinese embassy official, asked to comment on Chen's visit, said by telephone: "We are respectfully opposed to any official contacts with Taiwan by countries having diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China."

He declined to say if Beijing had officially protested Chen's visit, but said: "Our position is clear to all, including the Malaysian government."

Taiwanese firms are looking to move their production bases because of the appreciation of the Taiwanese dollar, rising wages and property prices, and anti-pollution protests at home. Analysts said Malaysia was welcoming Taiwanese investments in order to boost its own fledgling industrialisation programme.

Taiwan comprises about three per cent of Malaysia's global trade. Total trade between the two countries hit 4.28 billion ringgit (\$1.69 billion) in calendar 1989, a 26 per cent increase over 1988.

Malaysia suffered a deficit of about 1.5 billion ringgit (\$55 million) in its 1989 trade with Taiwan, and was looking to increase exports through the sale of Malaysian-made proton Saga cars and agricultural products, Rafidah said.

Taiwanese investments in Malaysia have centred on electrical, electronics, chemical and food industries, but Kuala Lumpur was now looking to tap capital-intensive industries such as steel and petrochemical projects, Rafidah said.

Manila stock market dips

MANILA, April 30, (Reuters): The Philippine stock market fell to its lowest level in 12 months today after the government scaled back substantially its growth projections for the economy.

Persistent coup jitters and the erosion of business confidence because of continual electricity power cuts in Manila sent the market into a tailspin.

The Manila Stock Exchange composite index closed at 936.57 points, its lowest level since April 14, 1989, when it stood at 934.90, the exchange said. The index fell 40.75 points, or 4.17 per cent, from Friday.

The combined trade turnover on Manila's two bourses slid to 403.1 million shares worth 71.1 million pesos (\$3.1 million) from Friday's 503.1 million shares worth 121.7 million pesos (\$5.4 million).

"The perception among investors now is that the government is not really on top of things, so there's a lack of confidence right now," said Caroline Kabigum, research chief at Ansco Hagedorn Securities.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said on Saturday the real gross national product might rise only four per cent this year, instead of an original projection of six per cent.

He said the government was working on a package of reforms to put the economy back on track.

Bindal Agro Bonus share issue

The board of directors of Bindal Agro Chem Limited in their meeting held on April 21, 1990 has decided to issue bonus shares to its shareholders in the ratio of one share for every two shares held.

Keeping in view the encouraging financial results, the directors of the company have also recommended a repeat dividend of 50 per cent for the year ended Dec 31, 1989. This is the third consecutive year, the company has maintained the dividend at the rate of 50 per cent even on the enlarged equity base.

During the year, the company's operating income is Rs 1.28 crores as against Rs 1.06 crores in the previous year, resulting in an increase of over 20 per cent. The export turnover during the year was Rs 11.06 crores as against Rs 1.13 crores in the previous year.

The profit before interest depreciation and taxation is Rs 18.02 crores as against Rs 12.44 crores in the previous year, resulting in an increase of over 44 per cent.

After providing for depreciation Rs 3.12 crores (0.99 crores), interest Rs 1.64 crores (Rs 3.92 crores), taxation Rs 0.28 crores (nil), the net profit for the year is higher by over 72 per cent at Rs 12.98 crores as against Rs 7.53 crores in the previous year. The earning per share works out to approximately Rs 9.

The petrochemical unit of the company at Rishra near Calcutta manufacturing low density polyethylene is doing well. The manufacturing capacity of LDPE is being increased from 12,000 MT to 15,000 MT on expansion of phase I by the end of this year — and finally to 18,000 MT. The raw material stock level is quite comfortable. The products have acquired popularity in the market.

The vamsapati plant at Mandideep in Bhopal is operating at its full capacity. All other units of the company are operating at their full capacity.

The implementation of gas based fertiliser project for the manufacture of 1350 tonnes per day of ammonia and 2200 tonnes per day of urea at Shahjahanpur in the state of UP at a capital cost of Rs 695 crores is progressing well.

The civil works at site as well as at Township is progressing well. Foundation work by way of concrete piling as well as compaction piling is in good progress and all the critical piling works are expected to be completed before monsoon so that super structures for plant will not have any impediments arising out of the monsoon.

Vendors for supply of major critical and long delivery equipments have been identified after global tendering by PDIL. Approval from Government of India for the foreign collaboration technical agreements has been received.



INDIA FESTIVAL

Indian Silk Sarees Just arrived!

On Display at Indian Arts Circle, Funnalees
From 1st May 90 onwards Timings: 7 pm — 11 pm
Exclusive Silk Sarees from India's
Leading Wholesale and Export House
Handloom: Traditional Sarees from Kanchipuram and Bangalore
Crepe: Fine Mysore Silks, Printed and Plain Sarees
Butter Silks: Printed Sarees
Chiffons and Georgettes: Pure Silk Printed Sarees







HYDERABAD DN.

1991-1990 CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE KOWAT

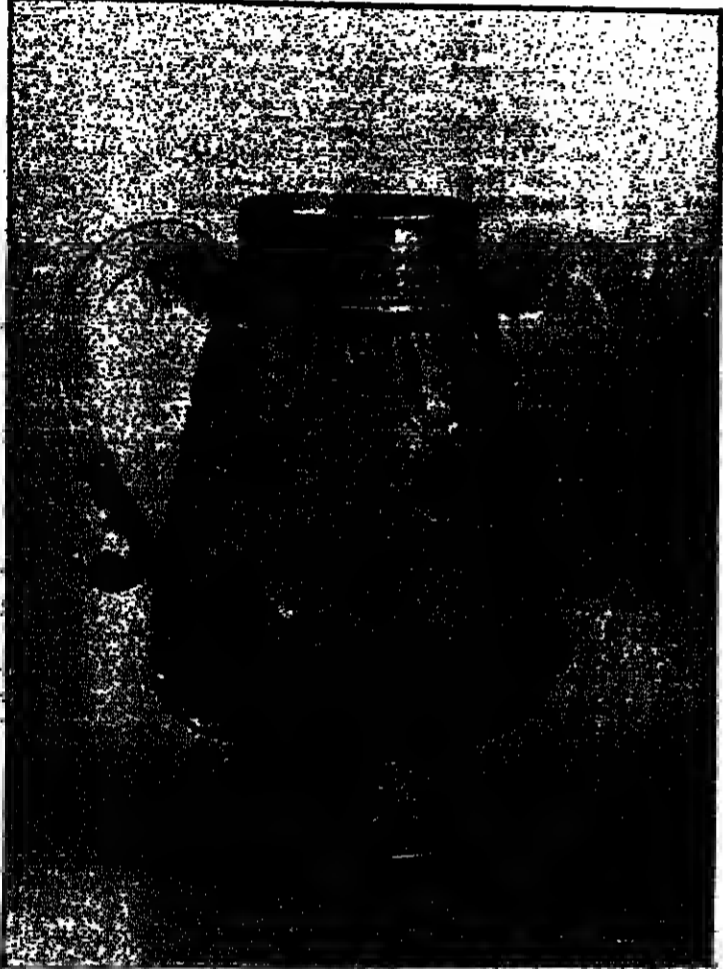
The Hyderabad Community presents a colourful festival from May 1 to May 18, 1990, in connection with the 400-year Anniversary of historic Hyderabad (Deccan) city under the patronage of H.E. Arun Kumar Budhikar, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait.

جشن پارسا سال
تائیس جیب کبکوک

Friday (4th May '90)	9.00 am	Inauguration of celebrations and sports by H.E. the Ambassador of India, Sri Arun Kumar Budhikar.
Sports ground, behind Cinema, Jaleel Al Shuykh.	10.00 am	Sports and games for children, ladies, gents and veterans.
	12.00 pm	Break for prayer and lunch.
Friday (11th May '90)	2.00 pm	Festival cricket match for veterans.
Messiah Beach Resort (TEC).	3.00 pm	Once in a life time chance to taste and enjoy delicious and mouth watering dishes. Games, lucky draw and magic show for children. Prize distribution.
Thursday (17th May '90)	8.00 pm	Highlighting the golden era of Hyderabad followed by a grand Mushaira by guest and local poets and release of souvenir.
Carlton Tower Hotel, Fayed Al Salem St.		
Friday (18th May '90)	5.00 pm	Valedictory function and musical night of ghazals by invitee artists from Hyderabad and local artists, light music and many more items.
Entertainment City (Doha), Kuwait.		
Sponsors: Mr. Mohammed Hoshdar Khan — Mr. Mohammed Shahaan H. Khan.		
For further details and information please contact:		
General Information: Mr. Mohamed Fashuddin Khan Tel: 2402603-6558647		
Mr. Mohamed Nasseeruddin Tel: 4736954		
Sports: Dr. Naidu Tel: 4842576	Musical Programme: Dr. Shokeel Khan Tel: 5317885	
Mr. Namir Khan Tel: 3716247	Mr. Shahnaz Khan Tel: 5844539	
	Sewar: Mr. H. Nizamuddin Ahmed Tel: 4745537	
	Mr. Zohad: Mr. Khan Tel: 2426105	
Library: Dr. Sam Khan Tel: 4811514	Mr. Mohamed H. Khan Tel: 2402019	
Mr. Ebrahim: Ummi Tel: 2463116		



Bucket: By Mohammad Ben Abdul Wahed and Masoud Ben Ahmad Al Naqash, Iran (Harat) December 1163.



Flask: By the same artists as the bucket, in the same style, but in a different shape, and with a different decoration, and ornaments, in the 17th century.



Sheikha Hussa Al Sabah with USSR delegation.

The days of old...

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

A PRICELESS collection of Islamic art from the Hermitage Museum of Leningrad, much of which has never before left the USSR, today goes on show at Kuwait's Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, that itself houses a small but comprehensive and exquisite selection of Islamic artefacts.

The one-month exhibition marks the beginning of what is expected to be a long and fruitful exchange between the Hermitage, one of the world's most important treasure troves of art, and the huddling Dar Al Athar, which although small, has holdings that famous galleries would like to possess.

The 120-piece Hermitage collection, featuring the best of the museum's Islamic artefacts, serves to bolster the understanding of Islamic art in the country and the appreciation for the treasures from the private collection of Sheikh Hussa Al Sabah and her husband Nasser, now on loan to the Dar Al Athar.

Accompanying the show are Soviet scholars who will tomorrow discuss different aspects of the Islamic civilisation at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

Parallel to the Hermitage show the Dar Al Athar features a smaller exhibition of art from Daghestan, which, situated in the north-eastern part of the Caucasus, once used to be a meeting place of many cultures.

In a move to strengthen its relationship with the Soviet museum the Dar Al Athar will fly 114 of its Islamic art objects to Leningrad for a display at the Hermitage in July.

The expo will then travel on to the US, Canada and France.

The Hermitage exhibits comprise pottery including glazed wall tiles from Iran, ceramics, ivory and rock crystals but the central place is occupied by metalwork mainly bronze ewers, trays, candlesticks, incense burners and bowls. The earliest pieces date back to the 10th century. When the so-called 'silver famine' hit the Muslim world in the 11th century artisans turned to brass and copper and used silver and gold sparingly. Exquisite workmanship and intricate designs compensated for the low value of base metals.

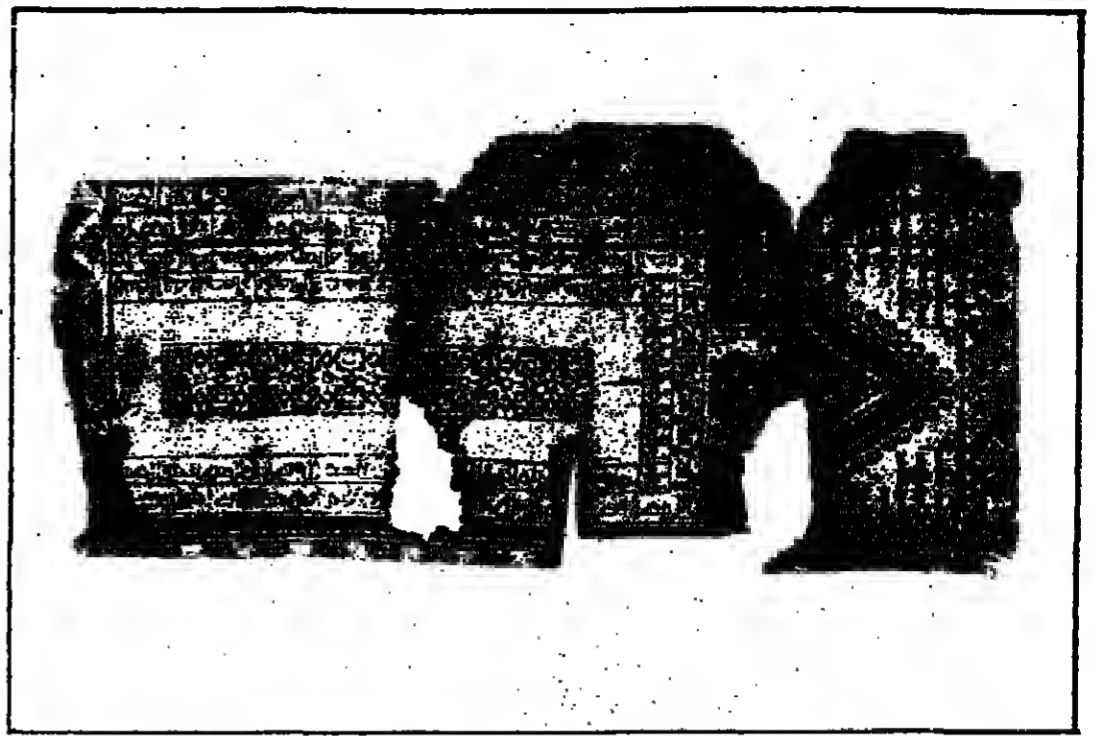
My favourite piece in the Hermitage collection is an Iranian ewer, tall and squat in shape, made of bronze and silver, from the late 12th or early 13th century. Some pieces are so old that at one point in time they had to be patched with additional pieces of brass. But most of them are easy to date thanks to an old custom according to which the artist signed and dated the object he produced. Among these an outstanding piece is a Qulandam (pencase) in bronze, copper and silver signed by the craftsman Omar Ibn Al Fadi Ibn Yusuf Al Buyyan and dated April 1148.

From the Daghestan collection I would single out two robes, one in red-striped silk from the late 19th century Bukhara and the other, a kind of a silk cape adorned with silver thread. Its origin is unknown but the fabric was dated 17th century. The same collection features a beautiful 17th century Archer's ring and turban ornament.

The sumptuous Hermitage collection is a result of centuries-long efforts by collectors, private and state, to pool the best of the pieces and make them a national treasure. Professor Mikhail Piotrovski of Institute for Oriental Studies in Leningrad said many of the pieces can trace their origin to private collections such as that of Bobrinsky, Puzillo and Basilevsky. Others were gifts to the Russian court from ambassadors representing Muslim countries. A number of pieces were excavated in archaeological sites or formed part of traditional handicrafts in the central Asian parts of the Soviet Union.

Today the Hermitage, together with the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Berlin Museum houses the best of Islamic art.

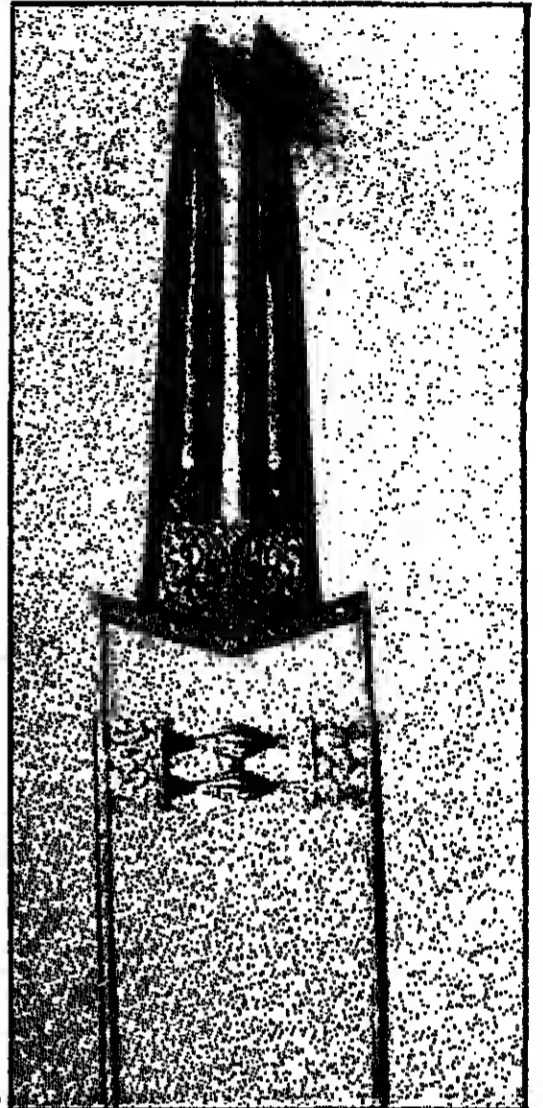
The Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah collection which in geographical and chronological scope stands unchallenged in the Middle East is expected to grow in reputation and its creator Sheikh Hussa views the co-operation with the Hermitage as a rare opportunity. The Soviets themselves are seeking to show their exhibits in the Arab world. As a token of their appreciation for Kuwait's interest and Sheikh Hussa's efforts they presented the Dar Al Athar with a replica of Caliph Othman's Koran and a 16th century inscribed stone from the government of the Soviet state of Uzbekistan.



A carpet by Ali Nokhabadi, Iran, 14th century, cotton, 104.5 x 46 cm.



Rectangular painting, Sicily, 1200. Ivory with decoration, 24.7 x 12.6 cm.



Dagger—India. The end of 18th century, steel, gold, precious stones.

A ballet worth watching twice

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

ONE of the songs in the second half of the Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance's performance which opened at the Mouscat Theatre last night is "To Dance" and in it the vocalist states "All I Ever Wanted Was To Dance." The enthusiasm, enjoyment and love of dance shines through the performance giving it a magnetic quality; you cannot take your eyes from it.

The other message that comes across is teamwork. This is apparent in the first ballet "The Hunting Of The Snark" (a musical arrangement by Mike Batt of the Lewis Carroll poem) where senior members of the company who were given solo parts each taught one of the younger dancers their part; the result being two casts performing on alternate nights. This in no way detracts from the performance as the younger girls do not attempt to copy their elders, but strive, like them to give maximum effort. The result is extremely effective and it is worth seeing the ballet twice to see the different interpretation. In both performances, Marina Donaghue, Head of Company, is the Bellman. When performing with her contemporaries she becomes the pivot around which the dance is performed; with the younger cast,

she guides them through the intricate pattern of the ballet with understanding and authority.

Whether the Snark is Paula Al Chami or Caroline Huber, the Beaver, Nadia Dabbagh or Rasha Al Azem, the Butcher, Ania Majewska or Niki McCauley, the Baker, Schiraphi Yagorajah or Larissa Prentice, Boots, Dalia Alami or Christina Huber, the story unfolds crisply and clearly as the assembled company takes the audience on a journey in pursuit of... what? Lewis Carroll himself did not know and each of us can decide what our particular "Snark" is, and whether or not we will ever find it. Ten of the senior members of the School choreographed the second ballet themselves. It loosely tells the story of a dance class (could it be K.S.C.D.?) and how the members of it are introduced to various aspects, jazz, contemporary and tap linked by a common theme that "Dance Is Life."

If you haven't got tickets—get them. You will not be disappointed.

See What's On for details or phone 5313287/288 Mrs Shami.



SOCIAL

Daniella Dhow Trip
FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Danes has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am. For reservations, call Jytte Tel. 2449610 before May 5.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC. Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

May Day

The chancery of Embassy of Pakistan, and the Embassy of Sri Lanka will be closed today — May 1, 1990 on account of May Day.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran
- 9.45 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Daily Arabic serial
- 11.15 Songs
- 12.00 Cultural programme
- 12.30 News in Brief and closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
- 4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.30 Cartoon serial
- 5.00 Cultural programme
- 6.00 Historical serial — Muslim Judges
- 7.00 Songs
- 7.25 Cultural serial
- 8.30 Good evening
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Daily Arabic serial
- 10.30 Weekly Arabic serial — Al Nar Wa Al Gharq
- 11.45 News in Brief
- 11.50 World Today via Satellite
- 12.10 Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Cartoons
- 6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club. A show where children tell jokes and entertain
- 7.00 The Quran & Science "Pain". Pain is necessary to protect the human body. Body skin and its sensitivity.
- 7.30 Kate and Allie. "The

Mouse that Squeaked." Chip brings a mouse for performing certain experiments. The mouse comes out of its cage and horror spreads all over the house.

8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law. A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations enforced in Kuwait.

8.45 Bordertown. "Runners". A border town between the United States and Canada where adventurers and smugglers perform their activities. Two Sheriffs plan to stop them...

9.15 Horizon. "The Time of Darkness". A study on the geological environment created by volcano activity... soil, earth and atmosphere prevailing in such environment.

10.00 Murphy Brown. "And so He Goes". A successful journalist specifies in his will that Murphy Brown has to write and present condolences to his readers. She is preparing to defame him...

10.30 Wolf. "Vengeance". A contracted murderer and drugs trafficker starts chasing the man who informed Wolf about him and caused his imprisonment. Wolf is to protect the witness.

11.30 News in brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andulus
Arabic film
Al Sahmiah
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Mad Mission 5
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Gharans
Fahabeh Open
Kaun Kinney Paani Mein

Fahabeh
Hell On The Battleground
Al Jahra
Shato
Granada
Ulasavapittenu
Salsibikhat
Ninja Force
Jleeb
Bonar Moto Boon
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

Coopers & Lybrand / Ioannou Zampelas & Co is the leading accounting and consulting organisation in Cyprus. With 250 partners and staff in offices all over the island, the firm provides a wide range of services aimed at helping clients increase the efficiency and profitability of their business.

Middle East Marketing Manager Computer Maintenance Services

Our client is one of the world's leading computer companies, which has extensive business throughout the Middle East, having been established in the area for many years.

An opening exists for the new position of Third Party Marketing Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for co-ordinating and managing the Middle East Area programmes for the development of Field Engineering Division sales and also for marketing the services of the company and Third Parties, ancillary equipment and supplies products.

The position will be located in Nicosia Cyprus and will require frequent travel throughout the Middle East.

Candidates should have a University Degree, preferably in Business Administration, Computer Science or Electronics, be a decisive leader and have technical/professional knowledge of field service in the business equipment industry, with at least four years experience in all areas of hardware support.

A successful marketing record, ideally with experience in Third Party marketing start-up and support, and proficiency in business management will be added advantages. A good command of English is essential.

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please send your C.V and passport size photograph to the address below.

A competitive salary and benefits will be provided for the successful candidate

To apply, please send full career details to:
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Ioannou Zampelas & Co
Julia House
3 Them. Dervis Str.,
P.O. Box 1612,
Nicosia, Cyprus

Coopers
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Ioannou
Zampelas & Co

Solutions
for Business

LEISURE

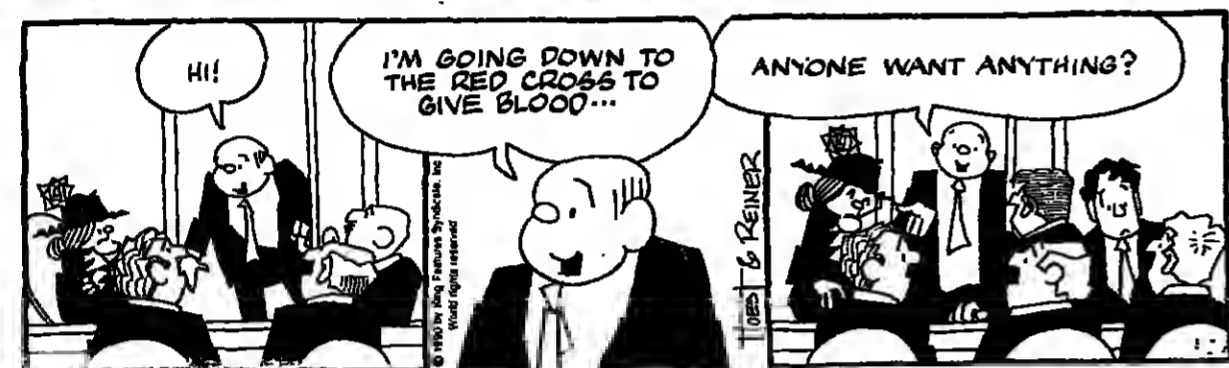
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



NAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dan Smith



AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Amend



BEETLEBAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



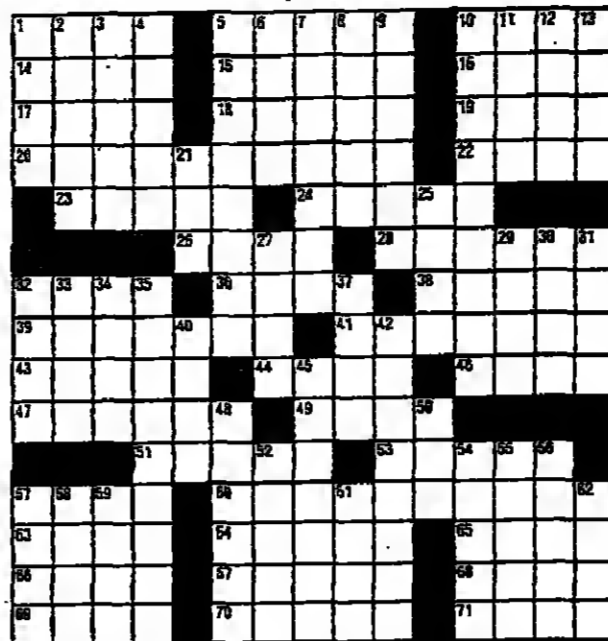
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



THE MAN — By G. F. Jones & J. Smith



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Angler's catch
- 5 Cordage fibers
- 10 Pitcher's error
- 14 King of the Huns
- 15 Held vertically, as oars
- 16 Algerian city
- 17 Math subj.
- 18 — prosequi
- 19 Retrad
- 20 Everywhere
- 22 Winnings
- 23 Police force
- 24 Warm month, in Chile
- 26 Rocker Clapton
- 28 Facial feature
- 32 Isaac's son
- 36 Sommer of films
- 38 Willow
- 39 Hiatus
- 41 Honorific
- 43 Harvest
- 44 Peruse
- 46 Paddock
- 47 Angles
- 49 Greek peak
- 51 Sorrow
- 53 Account entries
- 57 — your horses!
- 60 Topay-hurry
- 63 Miscellany
- 64 Commander at Gettysburg
- 65 Dies —
- 66 Cabbage salad
- 67 Busybody
- 68 Anecdote
- 69 Mountain lake
- 70 Poet Teasdale and namesakes
- 71 Cutter or coaster

DOWN

- 1 British spa
- 2 Anchor position
- 3 County Mayo's neighbor
- 4 Sad sounds
- 5 Small streamer
- 6 Footless
- 7 "Magnum P.I." star
- 8 Clew
- 9 Distorted
- 10 Toastmaster's words
- 11 Scotch specialty
- 12 Sprae
- 13 Deep or high
- 21 Bsen character
- 25 Fracas
- 27 — du Vent
- 29 Nap
- 30 Gaunt
- 31 Blunders
- 32 Energy units
- 33 Hard or soft
- 34 On the briny
- 35 Fluctuating
- 37 Greek letters
- 40 — each life...
- 42 Those with the lowdown
- 45 Pirate
- 48 Bad times for batters
- 50 Munched
- 52 Phantom's hideout?
- 54 Works on manuscripts
- 55 Upright
- 56 Lowland
- 57 Innkeeper
- 58 — podrida
- 59 Teller of tall tales
- 61 Thought
- 62 Privation

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ACROSS: 1. CIGAR, 2. PEAR, 3. FAIR, 4. REDDY, 5. ERLE, 6. ELAN, 7. MEWED, 8. SNIT, 9. WARM, 10. AISA, 11. SHOE, 12. AGENDA, 13. RATA, 14. SHIER, 15. ANDREW, 16. TELL, 17. JET, 18. TELL, 19. THREE, 20. DLI, 21. THEODORE, 22. REISER, 23. IRA, 24. RAMS, 25. CRAVE, 26. CUR, 27. BIG, 28. FOOLED, 29. BEGIN, 30. ANNI, 31. WAPITI, 32. GOTO, 33. MAG, 34. RID, 35. MEAT, 36. MOGUL, 37. IDLE, 38. ARAT, 39. IRENE, 40. TAOIS, 41. LAYS, 42. CARLIE.

COREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

PLAY THE ODDS

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

K 6 3

A 10 9 4

Q 3

A J 8 4 2

K 9 8 4

K 8 7 2

Q 8

K 10 7 6

A J 5

J 6

A J 10 6 5 2

5 3

SOUTH

A J 5

J 6

A J 10 6 5 2

5 3

WEST

K 9 8 4

K 8 7 2

Q 8

K 10 7 6

A J 5

J 6

A J 10 6 5 2

5 3

EAST

Q 10 7 2

Q 5 3

K 9 7 4

Q 9

The bidding:

North East South West

1 Pass 1 Pass

1 Pass 2 NT Pass

3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

You don't have to be a math genius to find the best percentage plays at the table. Common sense will lead you to the right path more often than not.

North's decision to raise to three no trump is a bit pushy. However, the vulnerable game bonus was an attractive carrot and our North was not the sort of player to resist temptation.

West led a top-of-nothing nine of spades and declarer made an excellent play by choosing to win with dummy's king. The opening lead made it likely the queen of spades

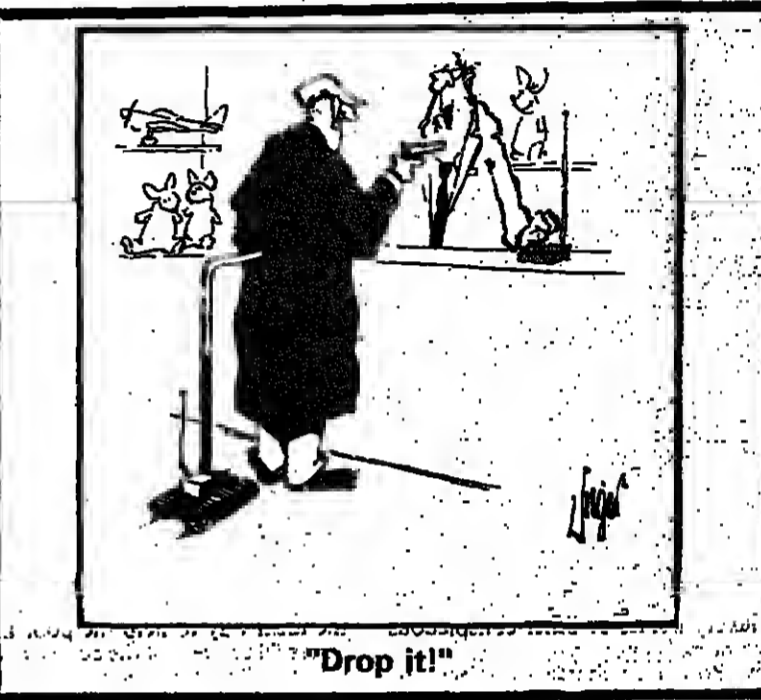
was with East, and South needed every entry to hand if he were going to bring home the contract.

Assuming three spade tricks, declarer could count five tricks in spades, hearts and clubs. He needed four more, and the obvious suit to tackle was diamonds. How would you manage the suit to get the required number of tricks?

If diamonds were to break 5-1, there was little hope. So the two possibilities to consider were 4-2 and 3-3 distributions. With an even distribution, four tricks could be developed no matter how the suit was played, so the only problem was a 4-2 split.

One way was to take a diamond finesse. That would work whenever East held both diamond honors guarded twice. The other was to lead a diamond to the ace, followed by a low diamond. That would guarantee four tricks whenever either defender held a doubleton diamond honor. Since it was twice as likely that West held a doubleton diamond honor than East having precisely king-queen fourth in the suit, that was declarer's choice.

When West showed up with the queen on the second round, declarer was home. A spade finesse provided an entry to force out the king of diamonds, and the ace of spades allowed declarer to get back to the closed hand to cash the rest of the suit.



"Drop it!"

YOUR STARS



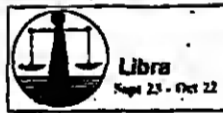
Aries March 21 - April 20

You will not be able to achieve all you had hoped to but you will still make quite good progress. Make sure you are not ungrateful. Have a good laugh at yourself but do not be frivolous. Be considerate.



Cancer June 21 - July 20

You will have lots to do and you should make yourself a note too rigid plan of action. Wherever possible try to avoid complications. And do try to get your priorities right. Be resolute.



Libra Sept. 21 - Oct. 22

There will be plenty to do but just get on with it, do not become fixated thinking about what remains to be done. Do not allow your standards to drop just in order to gain a little speed. Make sure you do not take a favour for granted, return it.



Capricorn Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Do not attempt to blame others for what you would know is your own fault. You would do well not to dwell so much on the past but to think more about the future. Take a little more interest in world affairs, not just in what pertains to you.



Taurus April 21 - May 20

Ensure you are sitting comfortably and do not stretch your legs every now and then. An important matter should be dealt with right away. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 28. Think of others as well as of yourself. Be less obdurate.



Leo July 21 - Aug. 21

Something you had been looking forward to will turn out to be rather disappointing. Make sure you do not do anything that is even slightly illegal. There is room for just a little more optimism. Be reasonable.



Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

You should help your partner to match expenditure with income. Try to avoid getting into a muddle and try not to have too many things on your mind all at the same time.



Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You will have a pleasant surprise in one respect but a disappointment in another. You would do well not to take everything quite so seriously. Make sure you do not leave any letters unanswered. Be sincere.



Gemini May 21 - June 20

Something that has been puzzling you will now become much clearer. You will tend to be rather more forgetful so do not spurn making notes. And try not to get things out of order. Be more determined.



Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You are liable to spend too long dealing with secondary matters. The more you can depend on yourself the better it will be. Listen carefully to what others are saying and act accordingly. Be moderate.



Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 20

You will find it rather hard to concentrate and should make an extra effort to do so. Beware of making a promise you would find it hard to keep. Make sure you get enough rest and take sufficient exercise. Be generous.



Pisces Feb. 19 - March 20

You must keep your wits very much about you and you should not act on impulse. Try to avoid putting all your eggs in one basket, so to say. You will have some good luck but not quite in the way you had hoped. Be less impetuous.



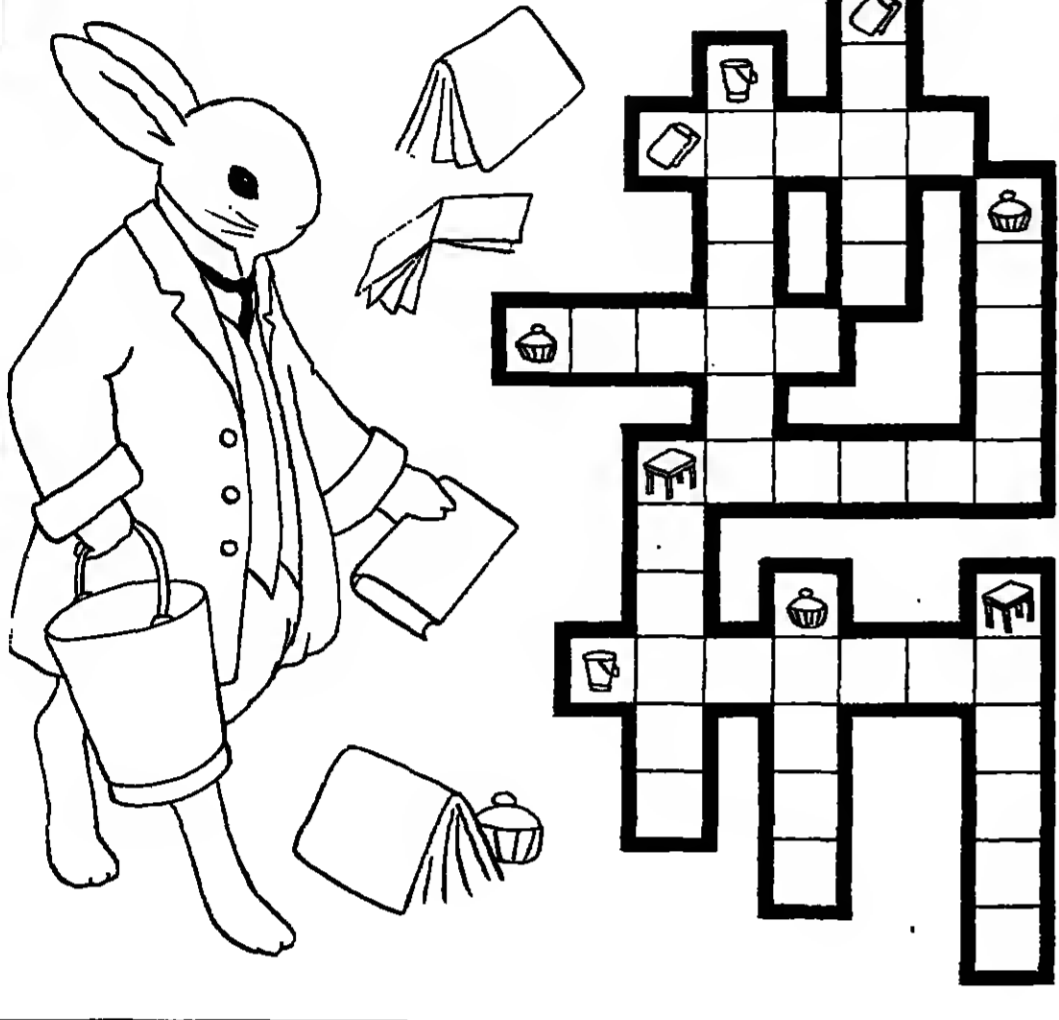
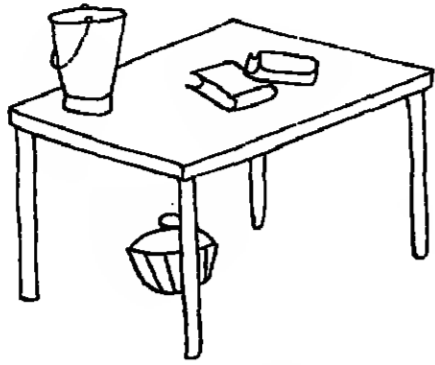
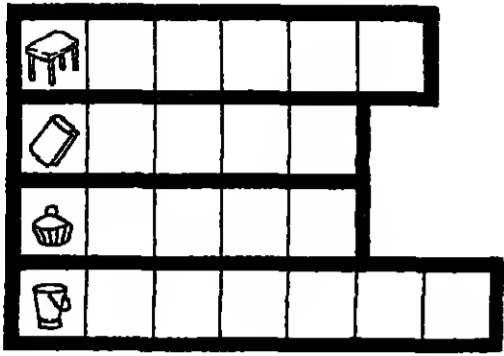
"Boy, that takes me back! I haven't seen a suit like that for 30 years."



"I always knew there was something different about you, Charlie."

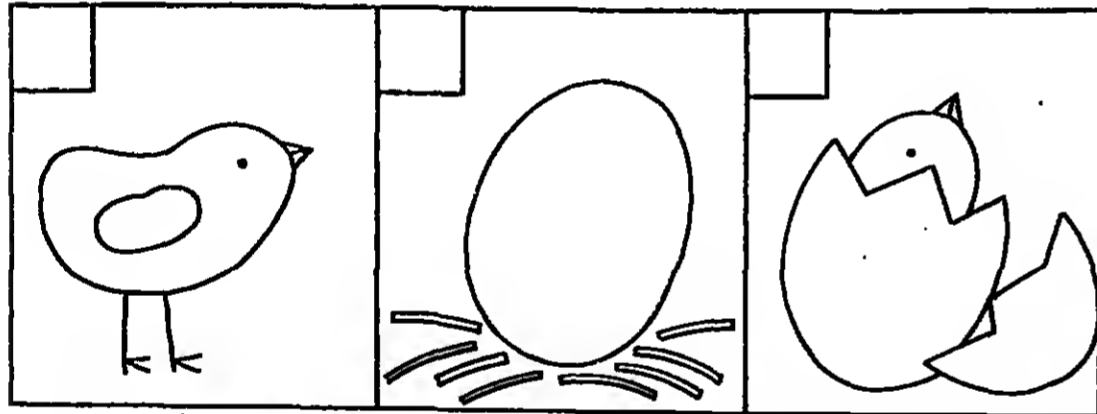
Criss-cross fun

Write the names of the four objects in the blank boxes below. Then complete the crossword by writing each object's name in the blank squares beside each picture.

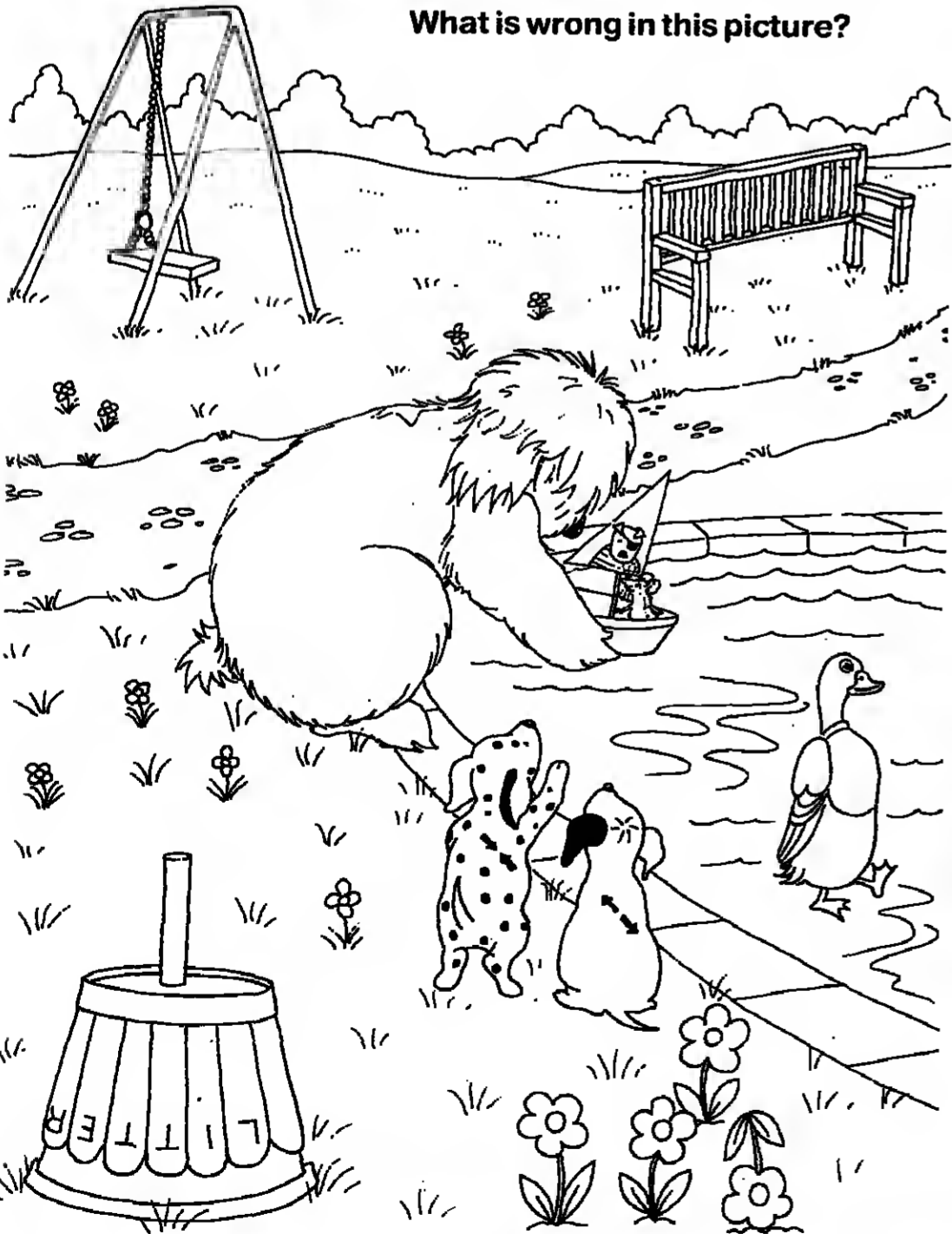


The right order

Number each set of pictures 1, 2 and 3 so that they tell the story in the correct order.



What is wrong in this picture?



Dear Junior Readers,

Your hands are great carriers of germs. For reasons of hygiene you must wash them regularly, especially before meals. Looking after your hands means looking after your nails as well. When you cut your fingernails you should follow the shape of

your finger. Do not cut them straight across the top. Afterwards file them carefully so that there are no rough edges to catch in your clothing. If you grow your nails long and paint them with nail varnish, you will find that they become very brittle and break easily. However, nail varnish does give your nails

an extra protection coat. Do not bite your nails. You might tear them and hurt your hands. If you have a hang-nail never bite, or pull it off. Cut it off, very close to the skin, with a pair of scissors. If it is sore, cover it with an elastoplast. Only push your cuticles back after a hot bath, when your skin is very soft, and less

likely to crack. Your skin is a barrier to stop germs entering your body. If you cut or scratch your skin it is important to keep the cut clean, especially on your hands, which are in contact with so many things every day.

Manal

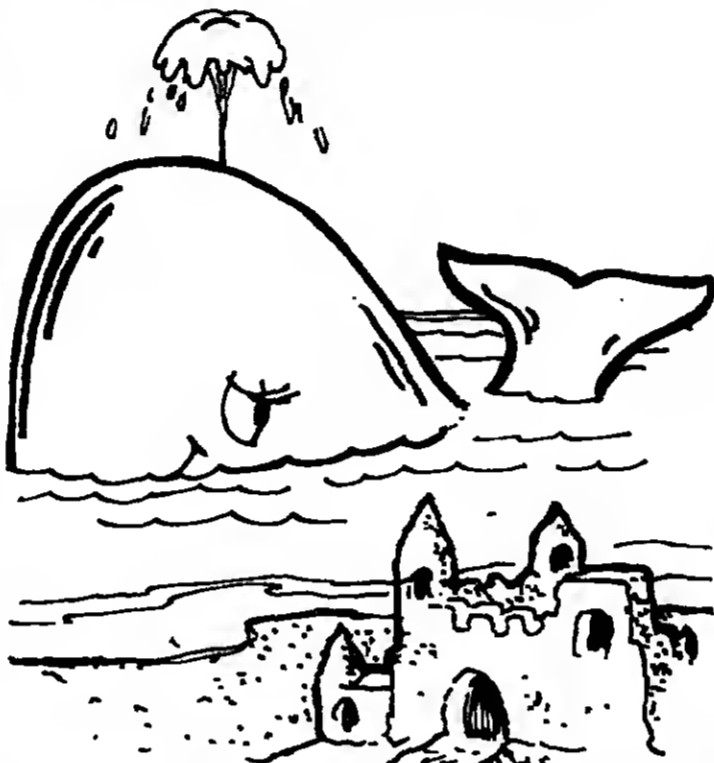
Amazing facts

As the earth whirls round on its axis a spot on the Equator moves at over 1000 mph.

Written English contains 10,000 words but the better educated person uses no more than 5,000 words when speaking.

The belfry of the church of Kippen, Scotland, is the only part of the structure still standing, and is covered with centuries of ivy.

A day at the beach



1. Rosa went to the beach on Monday and saw 73 people, on Tuesday and saw 92 people, on Wednesday and saw 68, and on Thursday and saw 39. How many did she see in all?.....
2. As she walked along the beach she collected shells and small pieces of driftwood. She found 72 shells and 33 pieces of driftwood. How many more shells than driftwood did she find?.....
3. When she got hungry she bought a hotdog for \$1.25, a bag of french fries for 49c and a large cola for 59c. She gave the lady a five dollar bill. How much change did she get back?.....
4. Rosa worked on her tan each day: Monday from 10 to 12:10, Tuesday from 1 to 3:40, Wednesday from 11 to 2:01, and Thursday from 11 to 12 and 1 to 3:33. How much time did she lay in the sun?.....
5. There were 7 children by the water. Each child built 3 sandcastles. How many castles were down by the water?.....
6. As Willy the Whale watched from the water, he counted the number of beach towels he saw. He saw 17 plain ones, 19 striped ones, 32 with designs and 24 with dots. How many towels did he see?.....

BRONZE

CANDY

CHINA

CORAL

COTTON

CRYSTAL

DIAMOND

EMERALD

FRUIT

GOLD

IVORY

LACE

LEATHER

PAPER

PEARL

POTTERY

RUBY

SAPPHIRE

SILK

SILVER

STEEL

TIN

WOOD

WOOL

Wordsearch

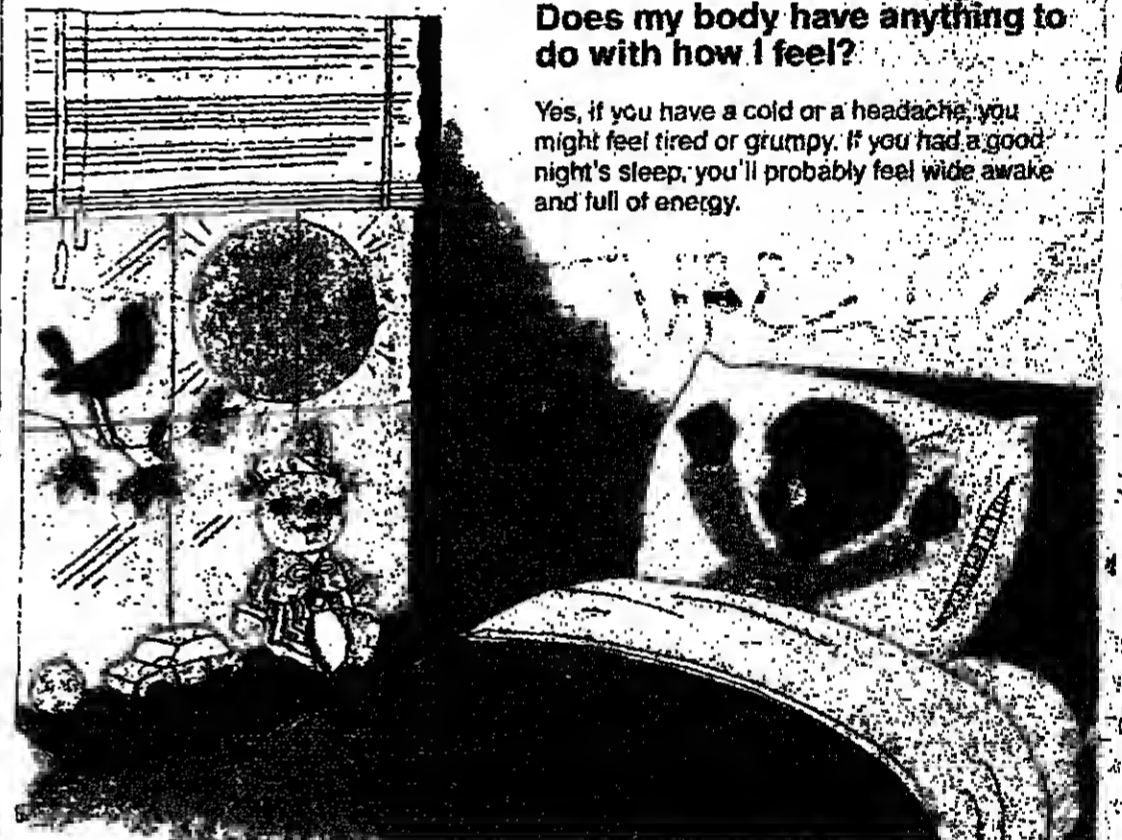
ANNIVERSARY TIME

B C P E A R L A T S Y R C
X J K B L M N E A O S L A
E M E R A L D N G E I U N
R B K O R P I V O R Y V D
I A L N O H A M K J E N Y
H D I Z C C M P L T M B R
P O S E N R O A E O U T E
P O A B C S N T E R K S V
A W T N Q A D B T L O P L
S O B T I N L I S O N G I
C O E Y E G U D J C N O S
A L N H I R E H T A E L T
J W O X F C Y B U D F D R

Questions you'd like to ask

Does my body have anything to do with how I feel?

Yes, if you have a cold or a headache, you might feel tired or grumpy. If you had a good night's sleep, you'll probably feel wide awake and full of energy.

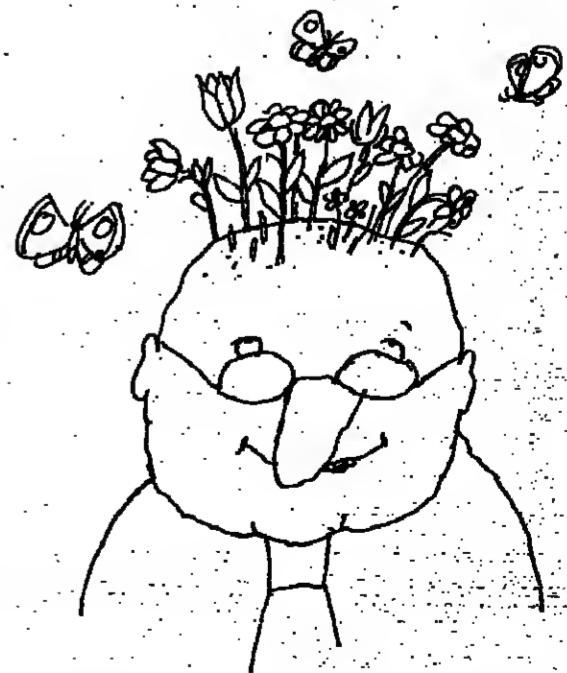


Poem

DO YOU KNOW THE MAN?

Do you know the man with the flowers growing
Out of the top of his head?
Yellow flowers,
Purple flowers,
Orange, green, and red.
Growing there
Just like hair
Out of the top of his head.
(Yes, you heard just what I said—
Out of the top of his head.)

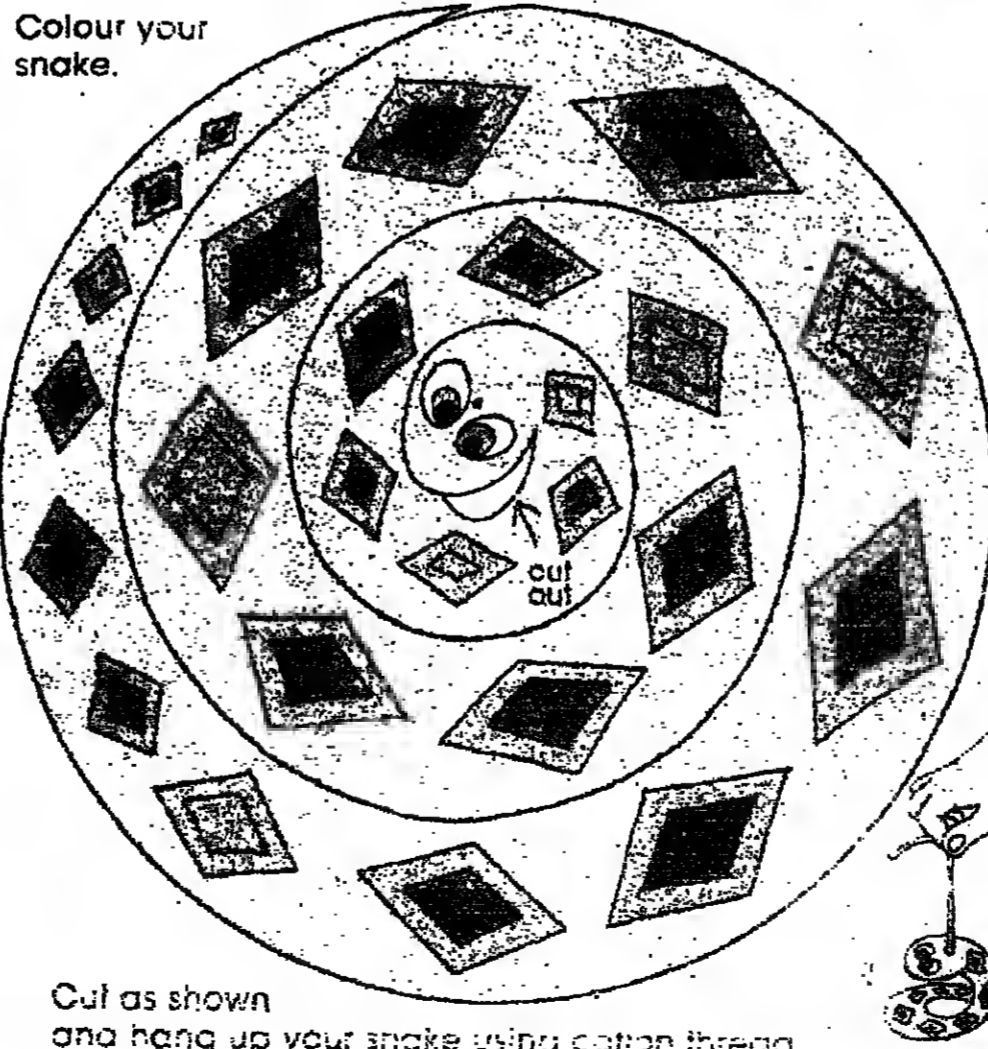
Shel Silverstein



A Twirly Snake

Draw round a plate onto thin card and copy the pattern below.

Colour your snake.

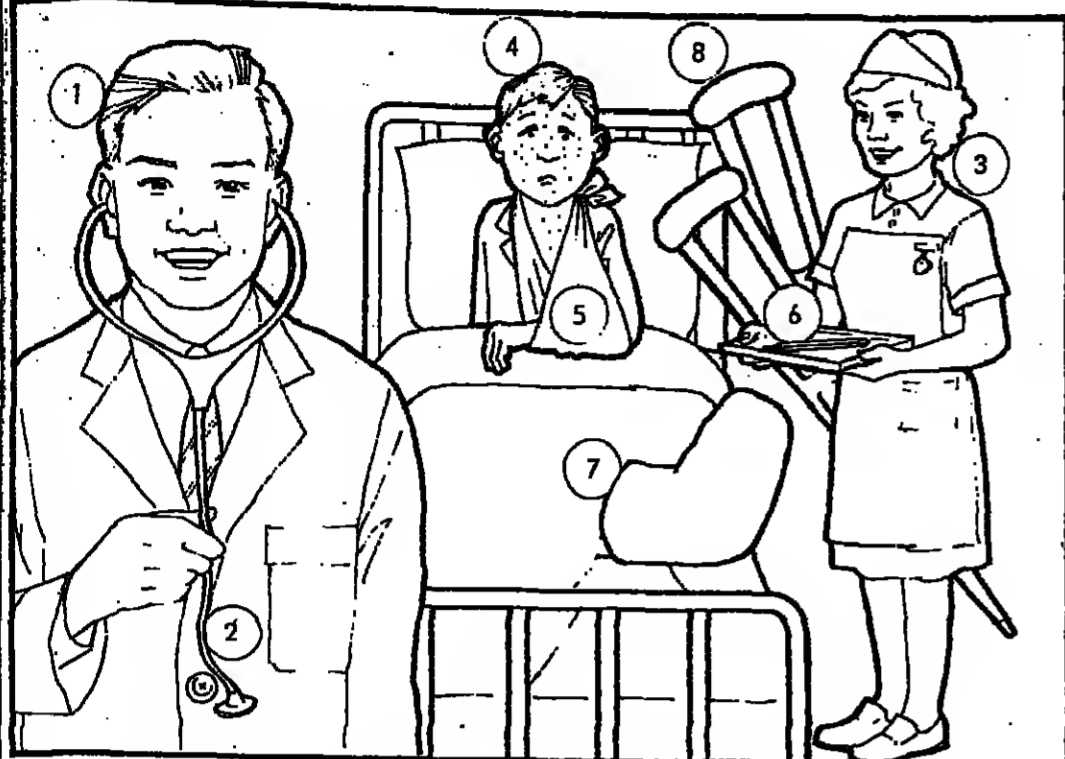


Cut as shown and hang up your snake using cotton thread



The hospital

Colour the picture.

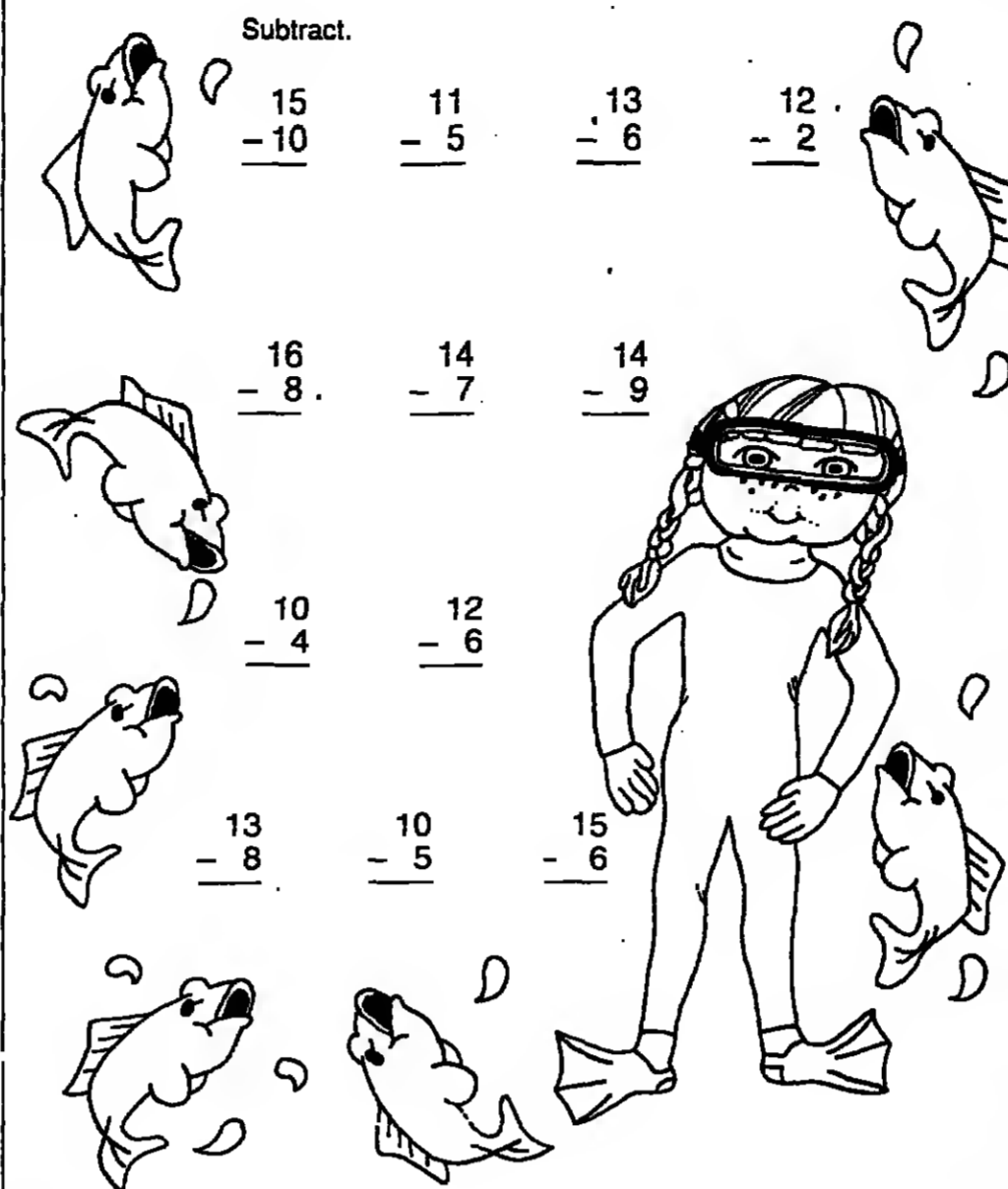


Find the words.

Write them.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 2 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 4 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 6 _____ |
| 7 _____ | 8 _____ |

Scuba-Diving Subtraction



Happy birthday



Arun Edward turns 4 on May 2.



Sabina Mehboob turned 1 on April 27.



Minaaz Noori turns 6 today, May 1.



Valencia Mascarenhas 5 today May 1.



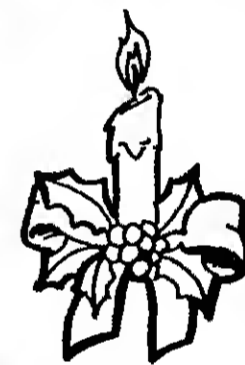
Chetan Sharma on April 25.



Sameer Sharma turned 5 on April 28.

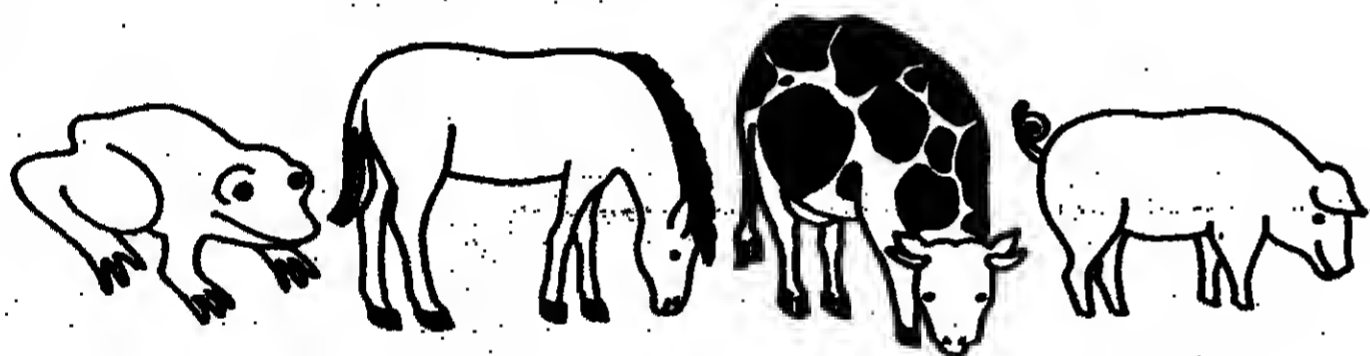


Abhishek Verma turns 7 on May 2.



Animal families

Look carefully at the drawings. In each group colour the animal which does not belong with that family.



Join the dots

Resting.



The wonderful nature in the country

The wonderful nature in the country is not so hard to find, 'cause everywhere you'll see, The wonderful grass and trees in the gardens, And the fields drinking the river's tea.

You can feel the wonderful cool air, Blowing in your face, And don't mind if the breeze blows your hair, 'cause you can tie it with a lace.

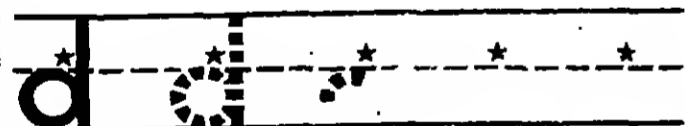
Oh! and in the beautiful countries The wheat fields sway, And the rivers rush up to your feet, and greets you with saying "Hey!"

And when you climb a hill in a country, You will see the beautiful countryside below you, And below the houses, will look beautiful too.

Farinaz K. Simika
VB
Carmel School



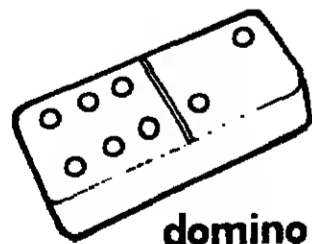
This is a d. Here are some pictures of words that begin with d. Point to each picture. Say the words. Color the pictures. Trace the letter d with a pencil. Practice making the letter.



dog



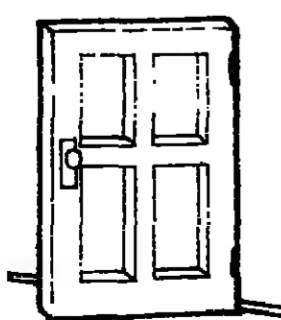
doll



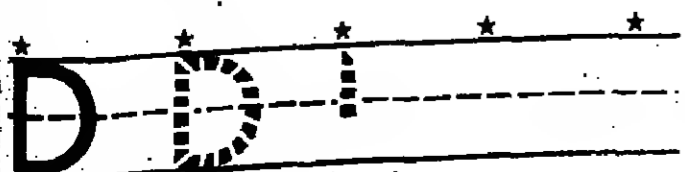
domino



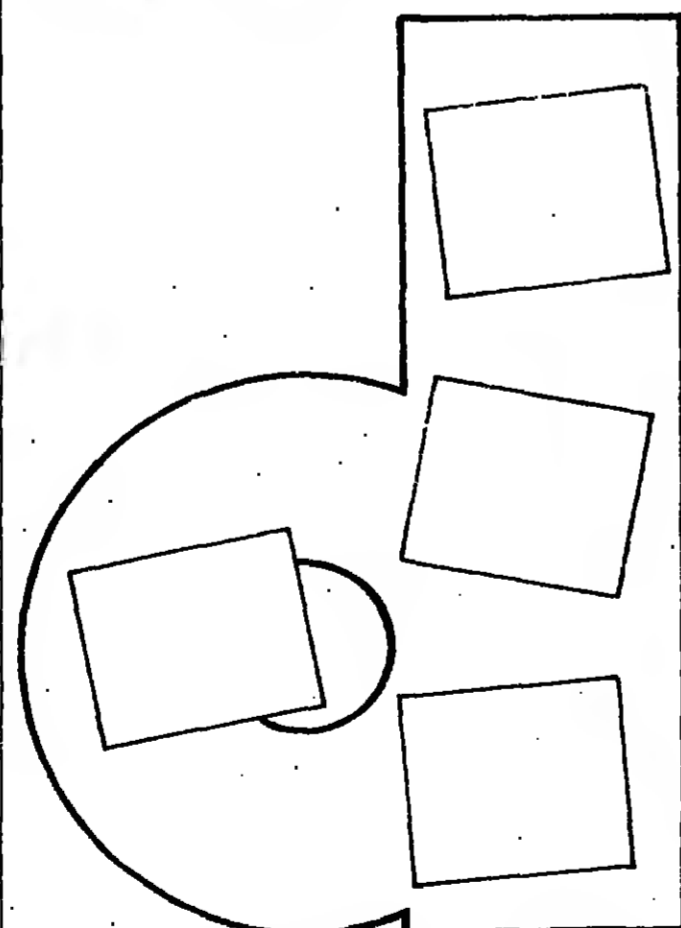
devil



door



Cut out pictures of things that begin with d. Paste them on the letter.



Skills: Sound-letter association and letter-sound discrimination.

Cut on the dotted lines.



Magic for beginners

SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE



MARCO
THE MAGICIAN
403708, GOA, INDIA.



THE MAGICIAN EXPLAINS TO HIS AUDIENCE THAT THERE CANNOT BE SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE. RUBS HIS THUMB AND FORE FINGER. CLOUDS OF SMOKE EMIT FROM HIS FINGER TIPS.

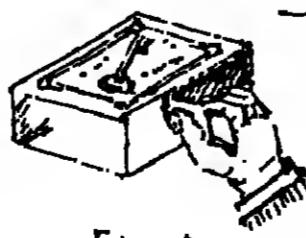


Fig. A



Fig. B



Fig. C



SECRET: COLLECT SOME USED MATCH BOXES AND PEEL THE STRIKING PAPER OF THE BOXES AS SHOWN IN FIG "A". COLLECT THEM ON A CLEAN ASH TRAY AS IN "B". BURN ALL THE STRIKING PAPERS AS IN "C" AND THROW AWAY ALL THE CARBON FROM THE ASH TRAY. TOUCH THE STICKY SUBSTANCE WITH YOUR FORE FINGER AND RUB IT WITH THUMB.

CAUTION: WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER YOUR PERFORMANCE.

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secretary.
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Dabbas (Opp. Al Tawar) 1st floor.
Flat No. 1. Tel. 3923383, 3923383
— 2 pm to 5 pm — Mr. Salim/Mr.
Khan.

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Food: the Olympic caterer's nightmare

BARCELONA, Spain, April 30. (Reuters) Joseph Maria Prieto is preparing to cater for a rather large family gathering—the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Prieto expects to provide about two million meals over 30 days to the 'Olympic family' of athletes, journalists, judges, volunteers and guests scattered over the city, many of them with special diets.

"We must not forget any detail, so we can avoid any surprise," he said.

Prieto, head of catering for the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (Coob), knows he is facing a logistical nightmare.

Suppliers need plenty of time to build up their stocks in advance.

"If we assume we have to provide 250 grams of meat a day to some 15,000 people, we will need more than 100,000 kilos of meat. You can't find this overnight," he said.

And organisers will have to specify the cuts of meat they want, how thick the steak and from what part of the animal, so that butchers can do their work.

At the moment, Prieto is largely working on hypotheses of what will be needed, how much and where but final estimates have to be drawn up before the end of this year for things to be ready in time for the Games.

From past experience, he predicts that some 31 per cent of the 'Olympic family' will come from Eastern and northern Europe, 19 per cent from the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand, 15 per cent from the Far East, 13 per cent from the Mediterranean, 12 per cent from Africa and 10 per cent from Latin America.

The organisers' guiding principle is to provide the widest range of food available in keeping with the Olympic philosophy of uniting people through the games.

Eaten

As an example of his commitment to that aim, Prieto says he hopes to provide at least three quarters of many different types of bread eaten around the world.

In practice, during any 24-hour period, guests will be able to choose from a variety of foods which will take into account their habits, religions, training diets and personal tastes.

Although Coob has overall responsibility for catering, the work will be sub-contracted to specialist firms which need to be inspected and licensed well in advance so that planning can be carried out in time for the Games.

Prieto expects quality control to be one of the biggest headaches, given the problem of maintaining acceptable standards of hygiene when serving food during the hot Mediterranean summer.

"It would be a disaster if anything went wrong," he said.

Athletes and officials will be scattered during the day among 44 sites in Barcelona and the surrounding region. Between July 11 and August 2, Prieto expects only 59 per cent of the 15,000 residents to be at the Olympic village during the day, with the rest taking part in their events.

Cold packed lunches will be taken in refrigerated lorries to competitors at their venues.

Prieto expects the Spanish catering industry, used to feeding millions of tourists, to take the bulk of the contracts. He says firms will not necessarily be chosen on the basis of past experience.

One relief is that he is not in charge of feeding the estimated 400,000 people expected to attend the Games.

"I've got enough to do without that," he said.

And another relief is that he will not have to worry about providing alcoholic drinks and cigarettes — both are banned from the sale on the Olympic premises.

Candy Glen wins

ROME, April 30. (Reuters) Jockey Gary Moore and owner Antonio Balzarini took Italian Guiness honours for the second successive week when Candy Glen won the Premio Parioli, the Italian 2,000 Guineas, by length and quarter yesterday.

Last week the pair won the filly's classic with the Italian-trained Atoll. Candy Glen is trained by Newmarket trainer Christian Wall, who enjoyed his first classic success.

Local horse My Robert, ridden by Gianfranco Dettori, finished second, half a length in front of Sagal Wells, partnered by Michael Kinane.

Lakers edge Rockets

Bulls outclass Bucks



Kevin Johnson: scored 22 points for Suns

INGLEWOOD, California, April 30. (AP) James Worthy had 32 points, including five straight in the final minute, 19 seconds yesterday as the Los Angeles Lakers overcame a 17-point halftime deficit to beat Houston 104-100.

The win made Pat Riley the winningest coach in playoff history and gave the Lakers a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series, which switches to Houston for games tomorrow and Thursday. The rockets won both regular-season meetings at the Summit against the Lakers this year.

The Lakers trailed 65-48 at halftime but turned it up in the second half behind a defense that held the Rockets to 17 points in the third quarter and 18 in the fourth.

● The irrepressible Charles Barkley towed the floor, led the cheers and scored 32 points last night as he led the Philadelphia 76ers to a 107-101 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers last night.

The 76ers, the Atlantic Division champions, lead the Cavaliers 2-0 in their first-round best-of-5 National Basketball Association playoff series which moves to Richfield, Ohio, for games 3 and 4, if necessary, tomorrow and Thursday.

● Michael Jordan scored 36

points and led a last-minute surge that gave the Chicago Bulls to a 109-102 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks yesterday and a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-5 National Basketball Association playoff series.

The Bucks, who had taken a brief lead at 89-88 on an eight-point run late in the final period, fell behind by six points with 3:18 left, but climbed within two at 99-97.

Then Jordan, shaken up in the first minute of the fourth quarter in a collision with 6-foot-10 (208-centimetre), 230-pound (104.2-kilogramme) Greg Anderson, converted a three-point play with 1:02 left for a 102-97 and then hit another basket for 104-100 lead after Ricky Pierce had hit a 3-pointer.

Free throws by Bill Cartwright and Scottie Pippen, who finished with 32 points, clinched the game for the Bulls, who three times had 17-point leads in the first half.

Kevin Johnson shook off the flu to score 22 points and the Phoenix reserves ignited a third-quarter surge that sealed a 105-87 victory over the Utah Jazz yesterday to even their playoff series at 1-1.

Utah's loss was the first for a home team in the National Basketball Association playoffs.

Barcelona return to 2nd place

MADRID, April 30. (Reuters) Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 4-2 yesterday to return to second place in the Spanish First Division with one game left.

Two goals each from Dutch sweeper Ronald Koeman and striker Jose Vazquez lifted the Spanish Cup winners to 51 points, nine behind champions Real Madrid.

Bilbao went ahead after 32 minutes with an Ander Gariain penalty, but Koeman equalised five minutes later. Vazquez scored twice in the second half and though Bilbao's Loren Juarez pulled one back after 52 minutes, Koeman made it 4-2 in the 80th.

Valencia, level on points with Barcelona, sent Celta into the Second Division with a 2-1 win.

Brazilian Toni Gomez had a hand in both Valencia goals, the first by Fernando Gomez after 59 minutes and the second from Emilio Fenoli in the 68th. Jose Espinosa replied with an 86th minute penalty.

Athletic Madrid, who drew 3-3 with Real Madrid on Saturday, slipped back into fourth place on 50 points.

The main question undecided after the weekend games was which two teams will join Valencia and Athletic Madrid in next season's UEFA Cup.

Sevilla, on 43 points, lost 2-1 to bottom club Rayo Vallecano but still stand a good chance of qualifying. Their last match is at home to Real Sociedad, who drew 1-1 with Malaga and have 42 points.

Another team hoping for place in Europe are Logrones, 1-0 winners against Sporting Gijon. They visit Valencia next weekend.

Naples celebrates title

NAPLES, Italy, April 30. (Reuters) Naples exploded in wild celebration yesterday as Diego Maradona led Napoli to their second Italian soccer League title in the club's 64-year history, won both times under his captaincy.

Over 80,000 spectators at the city's San Paolo stadium erupted in a deafening roar to the accompaniment of fireworks and hooters as Napoli scored the only goal in their 1-0 win against Lazio and again at the final whistle as the Argentine captain led his team in a lap of victory.

Outside in the soccer-mad city, where Maradona is still highly respected despite a season marred by disputes with the club, hundreds of thousands of Neapolitans marked the occasion with tumultuous street carnivals and noisy motor cavalcades.

The narrow streets and squares of the southern port city were festooned with banners and balloons in the team's sky-blue colours and Italy's red, white and green.

Huge effigies of Maradona and the team's other heroes, including Brazilians Careca and Alemão, were paraded through the streets, likenesses hung from windows and balconies and Argentine and Brazilian flags mingled with Italian ones.

In the evening, the city authorities organised a huge fireworks display in the harbour.

Witnesses said the crush of people and vehicles had brought the city centre to a standstill. The celebrations are expected to last until the end of the May Day holiday tomorrow.

Napoli, who last won the title in 1987, finished the season two points in front of European champions AC Milan, who were title favourites only two weeks ago.

Before the match a coffin draped in Milan's red and black colours was carried in a mock funeral procession to the stadium and for several days vendors had done brisk trade selling phials of a clear liquid described as "the tears of Silvio Berlusconi" — Milan's business tycoon president.

Police said 80 people had been injured in the Naples area during the celebrations. They said most had been injured by fireworks or had fallen off motorcycles or from cars or lorries.

One 16-year-old fan was killed and another seriously injured when the motorbike on which they were celebrating the scoring of Napoli's goal crashed at high speed in the centre of Herculaneum, south of Naples.

Police said there were also several reports of cars set on fire after their drivers abandoned them in the middle of the street.

Ajax draw to stay on top

THE HAGUE, April 30. (Reuters) Dutch Soccer League leaders Ajax Amsterdam and closest challengers PSV Eindhoven both drew yesterday to remain separated by two points with one game left.

Ajax trailed Roda JC 2-0 with five minutes remaining. Substitute Wim Jonk closed the gap then an 86th-minute header by Ron Willems salvaged a valuable point.

John van Loen and Eric van de Leur capitalised on Ajax mistakes to give Roda their initial advantage.

PSV went ahead against Feyenoord Rotterdam with a 46th-minute goal by Wim Kieft but Johnny Metgod levelled six minutes later.

Ajax Amsterdam have asked the European Football Union (UEFA) not to implement next season's ban from European competitions.

Ajax chairman Michael van Praag said yesterday that he had written to UEFA asking for a pardon.

"I know we don't have much of a chance. But I didn't want to reproach myself later for not trying. It's always wrong not to give something a shot," he said.

Ajax were originally banned in September last year for two seasons after an iron bar was thrown at Austria Vienna's goalkeeper Franz Wohlfart during a UEFA Cup tie. The match was abandoned.

A UEFA appeals board later halved the punishment to one season, to take effect when the club next qualified for Europe.

Van Praag said the letter was sent with the moral support of the Dutch Football Federation and stressed that Ajax fans had rarely disrupted European matches in the past.

Lazaroni set to quit after Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 30. (AP) Brazilian soccer team coach Sebastiao Lazaroni says he will resign after the World Cup and return to coaching a club, possibly Fiorentina of the Italian League.

"After the Cup, I'm leaving the team," Lazaroni said Saturday.

"The exhaustion (of coaching a national team) is great and in July I will return to working with a club." Lazaroni has been frustrated recently by the refusal of some European and Brazilian teams to release their players for World Cup training and hopes to go to Florence.

"God willing, I'll sign a deal," he said.

Brazil faces Bulgaria in an exhibition game Saturday but Lazaroni said he would name a starting team on Thursday. Several European stars, such as star striker Careca and defenderman Alemão of Italy's Napoli team, are scheduled to arrive in Brazil in mid-week.

Five teams listed as World Cup favourites

MILAN, Italy, April 30. (AP) Five powerful teams — two from Latin America and three from Europe — fit the profile of the 1990 World Cup champion.

Cup defender Argentina and European champion the Netherlands top the list of favourites, along with host Italy, Brazil and West Germany.

Belgium, Yugoslavia, Spain and England also have to be reckoned among the potential winners of the World Cup.

In a tournament where close marking should keep most scores low, superstar forwards like Diego Maradona of Argentina or Marco van Basten of the Netherlands may prove to be the deciding factors.

Maradona and Van Basten are almost unstoppable players and can make the difference between their teams and the others, Italian manager Azzeglio Vicini said.

Vicini believes that Brazil and West Germany, combining excellent teamwork with individual talent, could join Argentina and the Netherlands in the semifinals.

"It's up to others to predict Italy among the final four," said Vicini, who hopes to lead Italy to an unprecedented fourth World Cup.

The first of 52 matches in 12 Italian cities pits Argentina against Cameroon on June 8 in Milan. The final is July 8 in Rome.

Argentina, often without Maradona and other stars performing in the European Leagues,

has not been impressive in World Cup warmups.

Its forwards were shut out by rival defenses in nine consecutive games going back to July 1989. In April, Argentina managed only one goal against the Scottish club Linfield.

"Exhibition matches are arranged just to test new tactics and players and improve teamwork," said Argentina manager Bilardo. "You will see the real strength and the determination of the best teams when World Cup action begins."

Maradona, who plays for Italy's Napoli, is 29 and has been troubled by back injuries. However, doctors say he should be in top form to help defend the Cup won by Argentina in 1986 in Mexico.

Other favourites have had mixed performances in warmup matches, too. Italy scored only two goals in six games, including a 1-0 loss to Brazil. The Netherlands was held to a scoreless draw by Italy and lost 2-1 to the Soviet Union and 1-0 to Brazil in three recent games.

West Germany was upset by France, a team which failed to qualify for the World Cup, in February. Last Wednesday, West Germany drew 3-3 with Uruguay, another World Cup finalist.

Brazil registered narrow victories over the Italians and Dutch earlier this year, then was beaten 1-0 by England.

Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni said he isn't worried. Lazaroni, the first Brazilian



Diego Maradona

manager to use a sweeper to tighten up the defence, noted that his team allowed only three goals in 15 matches.

"Few goals will be scored in the next world competition, so you need a good defense to protect narrow leads," Lazaroni said.

By adopting a European-style defense with Mauro Galvao as a

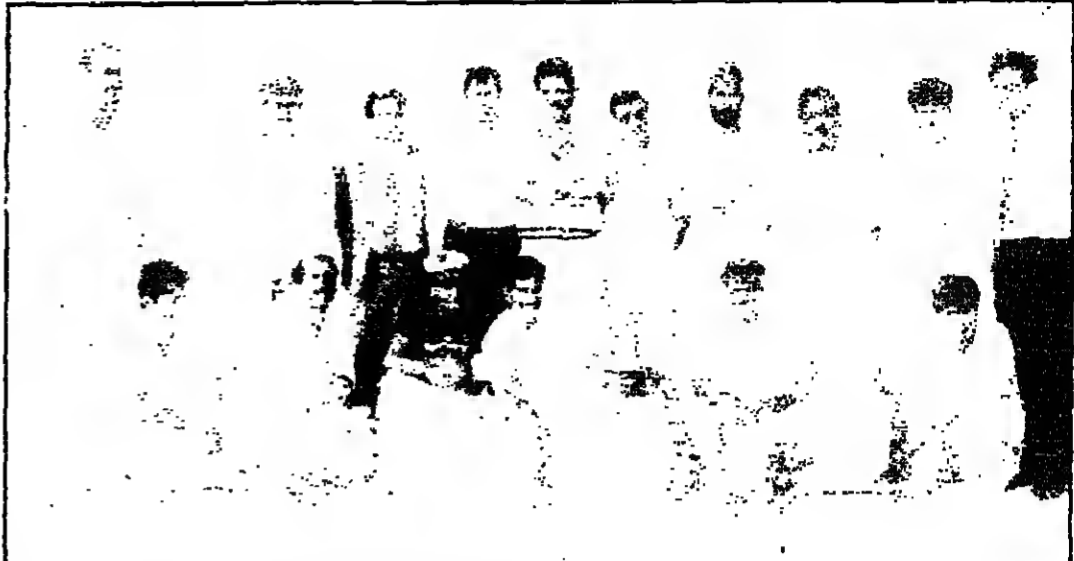


Marco van Basten

sweeper, Brazil should be more balanced.

But it still has dazzling forwards such as Valdo, Careca and Bebeto to provide offensive punch, and Romario should boost the attack if he recovers from a broken leg.

Brazil is the only country besides Italy to have won three



Prize distribution ceremony

The prize distribution ceremony for Gull Cricket League (GCL) Patron's Trophy was held on Friday at E.P.I ground. The final match was played before the month of Ramadan. Evergreen beat Sri Lanka Colts in that match easily by 85 runs. Iqbal Jr scored 195 and Anjum Raza 64 for Evergreen while Donalds hit 108 and Ray scored 56 for Lanka Lions. The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Muhammad Saleh Burud, the patron of GCL. GCL secretary Sajid Raza was also present during the ceremony. Saleh Burud presented the trophy to Asad Baig, skipper of Evergreen.



Hendry beats White

SHEFFIELD, England, April 30. (Reuters) Scotland's Stephen Hendry, 21, became the youngest player to win the World Professional Snooker Championship yesterday when he beat England's Jimmy White by 18 frames to 12.

Hendry, a professional for just five years, pocketed the £120,000 (\$200,000) first prize after one of the most entertaining finals in the 63-year history of the event.

White, trailing 14-10 at the start of the final session of the best-of-35-frames match, battled hard to keep in touch. But his opponent, winner of five major events this season, was too self-assured to permit a fightback.

The first four frames of the last session were shared. Hendry making a break of 108 in the 27th. White missed an easy red leading 27-9 in the 39th and Hendry punished him with a break of 81.

He clinched victory in style, winning the 30th frame 101-0 with a break of 71.

Northern Ireland's Alex Higgins was the previous youngest winner, a month short of his 23rd birthday when he took the title in 1972.

Creator defeats stablemate

PARIS, April 30. (Reuters) Creator, ridden by US jockey Cash Asmussen, beat stablemate In The Wings by two and half lengths yesterday to win the Prix Ganay at Longchamp.

Both horses, owned by Sheikh Mohammed, are trained in France by Andre Fabre. English challenger Ibn Bey was a further two and a half lengths back in third.

After one false start, Asmussen jumped Creator off quickly and took up the running two furlongs out.

In The Wings, partnered by Pat Eddery, ran on close to home

but Creator always had the one mile two and half furlong race in his grasp.

Asmussen said of Creator, the final foal of the great Mill Reef: "He is a great horse. Whenever he hears anyone closing, he quickens away from them."

The Prix Ganay, the first group one race of the European season, was the only major French race to have eluded Fabre.

"I was not surprised at how they finished. Though In The Wings may turn out a better horse, he was making his reappearance and needs a mile and a half," the trainer said.

but Creator always had the one

the thick of competition.

West Germany, which has reached the World Cup finals five times and won two titles, fields match-winners such as Lothar Matthaeus, Jurgen Klinsmann and Andy Moeller. Matthaeus and Klinsmann scored goals in the 2-3 draw with Uruguay.

Italy, the bookmakers' favourite, should benefit from the support of home crowds.

The team is strong at midfield and defense, but must improve at the front line to repeat the triumph of 1982 and avoid the flop of 1986 in Mexico.

Striker Gianluca Vialli, troubled by a foot injury, did not score a single goal in five warmups, sharply reducing the offensive efficiency of the Italian team.

Young striker Salvatore Schillaci could boost the attack. Barely behind in talent are four other European sides.

Belgium fields one of the world's best goalies, Michel Preud'homme, and the leading scorer of World Cup qualifying rounds, 24-year-old forward Marc Degryse.

England, seeded in Group F so that its violence-prone fans can be secluded on the island of Sardinia, upset powerful Brazil in Wembley in March. It boasts an exceptional goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, and fine wingers John Barnes and Chris Waddle.

Yugoslavia relies on talented midfielder Dragan Stojkovic, and Spain hopes that brilliant striker Emilio Butragueno will take it to the top.

Mercedes made to fight by Jaguar

MONZA, Italy, April 30. (Reuters) Frenchman Jean-Louis Schlesser and his Italian co-driver Mauro Baldi gave Mercedes a second successive win in the 1990 World Sportscar Championship yesterday but the West German factory team was made to fight by resurgent Jaguar.

From the first corner, when West German Jochen Mass in a Mercedes and Jaguar driven Jan Lammers of the Netherlands knocked each other off the track, the two works teams duelled throughout the 480 kilometre race.

Both cars were back in the top four behind leaders Schlesser and Baldi by half-distance.

In the final lap mass attacked the second-placed Jaguar of Briton Martin Brundle. He overtook him with two bends left to give Mercedes a one-two triumph ahead of Jaguar's third and fourth place.

"My engine cut twice on the last lap," said Brundle. "There was nothing I could do to stop Jochen passing me."

Fuel proved the major problem in what will probably be the fastest round of the championship. The race lasted just two hours 17 minutes and the winning car averaged 210 kph.

Nissan were running a strong fifth when Briton Mark Blundell stopped with a lap remaining, the fuel tank of his car empty.

Gorospe takes overall lead

UBRIQUE, Spain, April 30. (AP) Spaniard Julian Gorospe took the overall lead of the 45th Tour of Spain cycling race yesterday after Denmark's Jesper Worre won the sixth leg, a mountain-studded course that ended the hopes of several riders.

Worre finished the 195.2-kilometre (121-mile) leg from Loja to Ubrique in five hours, eight minutes and 49 seconds, 61 seconds ahead of East German Hartmut Bolts and 62 seconds ahead of third-place finisher Fernando Quedvedo of Spain.

Gorospe was in a pack of 14, 65 seconds off Worre's pace. Gorospe's aggregate time of 24:16:32 gave him a 25-second lead over Marco Giovannetti of Italy and a 45-second advantage over Soviet Viktor Klimov, who led for the previous five days.

After Saturday's fourth leg, Klimov led the field by two minutes and four seconds.

Worre joined several dozen riders who broke early in the leg, which featured three mountain passes, the steepest 35 kilometres (22-miles) before the finish line.

The Dane took the lead on the climb up the first-class Las Palomas pass.

SPORTS

Jahangir and Martin blast referee

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, April 30. (Reuters) Jahangir Khan and Rodney Martin hurled bitter accusations at each other — and at the referee — yesterday after their quarter-final match at the European Open Squash Championship.

Jahangir, Pakistan's world number one, repeated his success in last week's British Open final by beating Martin 9-15 15-5 15-12 15-4, but was then heavily criticised by the angry Australian.

"He played on after at least five double-bounces," Martin said. "If he has to win matches by doing that, he has lost all my respect."

Jahangir denied the allegation and hit back by accusing Martin of being too physical. "He pushed and pulled me throughout the match and would not let me get to the ball. This was not a clean game," Jahangir said. Both players agreed on one thing: They were critical of Edgar Bock, the West German referee.

"He was absolutely pathetic," said Martin. "It was one of the worst refereeing displays I have ever seen," Jahangir added. "The general standard of refereeing around the world is not good," Jahangir said. "And I believe a group of top referees going around to all the major events is the only answer." Eccentric refereeing was certainly a contributing factor to a match that remained very much a lottery until Jahangir took control of the fifth game, which he won in just 10 minutes.

In the semifinals, Jahangir will play Chris Dittmar, the world number three, who needed only 38 minutes to defeat unseeded fellow Australian Tristan Nancarrow 15-12 15-17 15-9.

Chris Robertson will play Brett Martin, Rodney's older brother, in the other, all-Australian, semifinal.

Robertson beat Pakistan's Mir Zaman Gul 15-7 15-12 15-9 and Martin defeated England's Bryan Besson 15-10 15-8 15-6.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Italian clubs

MILAN, Italy, April 30. (AP) A record of nine Italian soccer teams — half of the First Division — will go into the European Cup competitions next season if AC Milan, Fiorentina and Sampdoria win this year's finals. Title holders qualify for the next editions and UEFA, soccer's governing body in Europe, said today no other country has had nine teams in its three competitions.

Davis wins

MADRID, April 30. (Reuters) Roger Davis took a major step towards his target of becoming the top golfer in Europe by winning the Spanish Open at Club de Campo yesterday. The Australian's final round of 66, the second-lowest of the tournament, left him 11 under par on 277 and averaged his defeat by Bernhard Langer in last weekend's Madrid Open.

France triumph

LOS ANGELES, April 30. (Reuters) France beat the United States 3-2 (15-11 15-10 14-16 13-15 17-16) in a Group A World Volleyball League match yesterday.

Youth tourney

GUATEMALA CITY, April 30. (Reuters) Results of matches played in the North-Central America and Caribbean Football Association Concacaf youth tournament yesterday: Surinam 2, Bermuda 1; United States 2, Costa Rica 0.

Madrid race

MADRID, Spain, April 30. (AP) Jose Cesar Souza of Brazil won the Madrid marathon today, finishing the course in 2 hours, 14 minutes and 24 seconds.

Yugoslav title

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, April 30. (Reuters) Twice European club champions Jugoplastika split won their third successive Yugoslav basketball title by beating Red Star Belgrade 113-89 yesterday.

Brazil beaten

BRASILIA, April 30. (Reuters) Italy continued to enjoy success against Brazil by beating their hosts 15-10 15-5 10-15 15-10 yesterday in a World Volleyball League Pool A match.

China Cup

BEIJING, April 30. (AP) China's Yang Bo performed flawlessly on the balance beam to win the only perfect score of the China Cup international gymnastic tournament and lead a Chinese sweep of gold medals in women's competition.

Bebeto injured

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 30. (Reuters) Brazilian striker Bebeto will miss a World Cup soccer warm-up game against Bulgaria on Saturday after suffering an injury at the weekend.

American jockey

PARIS, April 30. (Reuters) American jockey Cash Asmussen has won the right to ride in two classic races in England and France next week after a successful appeal against a four-day ban.

Aussies rout Bangladesh

Taylor Man of the Match



Peter Taylor

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, April 30. (AP) Favourites Australia took it easy against rookie Bangladesh, coasting to a seven-wicket victory in the last group game of the Australasia Cup tournament today.

The unbeaten Australians won with 24.2 overs to spare after being set a modest target of 135 to win in 50 overs. Peter Taylor, promoted up the order as the Australians took a laid-back approach to a game worth the Man of the Match award of \$300 for an undefeated 54.

There was little drama to the match since the finalists have already been decided. Australia were 140 for three wickets in 25.4 overs after containing Bangladesh to 134 for 8. Taylor, best known as a spinner, also notched up his half-century in 47 balls, the fastest 50 in the tournament so far.

That beat Pakistani Ejaz Ahmed's 48-delivery 50 against Sri Lanka yesterday. Taylor hit three boundaries.

The Australians also experimented with makeshift openers Simon O'Donnell and Ian Healy who put on 50 in 10.3 overs before being parted.

Bangladesh, who decided to bat first after winning the toss, owed their total to Aminul Islam who was not out on 41 in 76 balls. Bangladesh and India have been knocked out. But despite their two defeats, against New Zealand and now Australia, Bangladesh were not disgraced.

Compared to their opponents, who have been cricketing oafos for decades, the Bangladeshis are newcomers to international cricket.

Cup holders Pakistan take on New Zealand in the first semi-final tomorrow. Australia faces Sri Lanka Wednesday in the other semi-final of the \$100,000.

Scoreboard

BANGLADESH: Azhar Hussain c Healy b Hughes 5, Z. Razaque c Healy b Campbell 4, Gazi Ashraf b Peter Taylor 18, Akram Khan c Marsh b O'Donnell 13.

Farooque Ahmed lbw Waugh 6, Minhaz-ul-Haque c Healy b Peter Taylor 0, Amin-ul-Islam not out 41, Enam-ul-Haque c Jones b Waugh 16, Nasir Ahmed b O'Donnell 7, Extras (28, 7th, 8th, 9th) 7.

Total (for eight in 50 overs) 134. Did not bat: G.M. Nausher. Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-12, 3-33, 4-47, 5-50, 6-59, 7-107, 8-121.

Bowling: Merv Hughes 10-3-15-1 (1w, 2nb), Greg Campbell 10-1-32-1 (4w), Steve Waugh 10-2-22-2 (2w), Simon O'Donnell 10-1-34-2 (1w), Peter Taylor 10-2-22-2.

AUSTRALIA: S. O'Donnell c Ashraf b Abedin 20, Ian Healy c Hussain b Nausher 34, Dean Jones c F. Ahmed b Abedin 19, Peter Taylor not out 54, Merv Hughes not out 10.

Extras (1w, 1nb, 1lb) 3. Total (for 3 wickets in 25.4 overs) 140. Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-58, 3-102. Did not bat: Allan Border (capt.), Geoff Marsh, Mark Taylor, David Boon, Steve Waugh and Greg Campbell.

Bowling: G.M. Nausher 6-0-27-1, J.A. Talukdar 4-0-20-0 (1w), Azhar Hussain 7-1-26-0 (1nb), Minhaz-ul-Abedin 6-0-43-2 (1nb), Amin-ul-Islam 14-0-16-0, Enam-ul-Haque 1-0-7-0.

No clear Open favourite

MONTE CARLO, April 30. (Reuters) The absence of world number one Ivan Lendl and the topsy-turvy form of the world's leading tennis players suggest that, for once, there will be no clear favourite when the French Open starts in four weeks' time.

Andre Chesnokov, a semifinalist at Roland Garros last year, walked off with the biggest prize of his career with victory yesterday in the \$1 million Monte Carlo Open, adding his name to a growing list of those capable of winning in Paris.

But a week earlier the Soviet player had made a surprise second round exit to 17-year-old Frenchman Fabrice Santoro when he was defending his title in the Nice Open, showing he is by no means immune to the fluctuations of form afflicting almost everyone since the European clay court season opened.

"It's too soon to say how well I can do at the French Open," he said cautiously. "There you have to take one round at a time. There are many, many players who can do well."

Chesnokov is right — there will be no shortlists for the French men's singles title. All lists of contenders must inevitably be long.

For that, one can only thank or blame Lendl and Mats Wilander who have taken six of the last eight trophies at Roland Garros between them and who start as automatic favourites each year for the only Grand Slam title contested on clay.

Lendl is duking Paris this year to concentrate on Wimbledon, the one major title which has eluded him, and the Swede is so manifestly out of form, practice and inspiration only a giraffe would stick its neck out on his behalf.

World numbers two and three Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker are poised to fill the vacuum — and make the jump to pass Lendl and become world number one.

But the Monte Carlo tournament showed once again

that these two giants of the attacking game have their limitations on clay and will always be vulnerable to a dogged baseliner.

Edberg went out in his first match to Juan Aguilera and Becker fell at the next hurdle, another victim to a Spanish clay court specialist, this time Emilio Sanchez.

That neither Aguilera nor Sanchez was able to go on to the final illustrates how variable form is proving to be this season.

Whether Edberg or Becker, any more than John McEnroe before them, can ever win at Roland Garros remains debatable. They were close last year when the Swede beat Becker in a five-set semifinal, only to lose a close final with American teenager Michael Chang.

Both would dearly love to win in Paris, not because they like clay but because it would give them enormous stature as great all-round players.

Since tennis went open more than 20 years ago, only Bjorn Borg has won on the totally contrasting surfaces of clay and grass at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. But he was a one-off genius who picked up a record six titles in the French and five in a row in London.

Becker, like Edberg brought up on clay but with a game far better suited to faster surfaces, has long made it clear just how much he needs to win in Paris.

But his distaste for the patience and defensive instincts required is obvious. Asked if he approved of Lendl missing the French Open, he said: "If I won the French three times, I would never play on clay again." His expression showed he meant it.

If they cannot do it, then who can? Will Chang, the first American to win in Paris in 34 years, the youngest Grand Slam men's singles winner ever and the biggest upset of recent years, be able to do it again?

Or will his breakthrough encourage another young American to follow? Andre Agassi, Aaron Krickstein, Jim Courier and Pete Sampras are already waiting in the wings.

Italy name 22 players for World Cup

ROME, April 30. (UPI) Azeglio Vicini, coach of Italy's national soccer team, today announced his squad of 22 players for the World Cup finals to be held in Italy June 8 through July 8.

The squad is as follows, with each player's club side included in parentheses.

Goalkeepers: Walter Zenga (Internazionale), Gianluca Pagliuca (Sampdoria), Stefano Tacconi (Juventus).

Defenders: Franco Baresi (AC Milan), Giuseppe Bergomi (Inter), Luigi De Agostini (Juventus), Ciro Ferrara (Napoli), Riccardo Ferri (Inter), Paolo Maldini (AC Milan), Pietro Vierchowod (Sampdoria).

Midfielders: Carlo Acciolti (AC Milan), Nicola Berti (Inter), Fernando de Napoli (Napoli), Giuseppe Giannini (Roma), Giancarlo Marocchi (Juventus).

Forwards: Roberto Baggio (Fiorentina), Andrea Carnevale (Napoli), Roberto Doadoni (AC Milan), Roberto Mancini (Sampdoria), Salvatore Schillaci (Juventus), Aldo Serena (Inter), Gianluca Vialli (Sampdoria).



Viv Richards: hit 59



Alvin Kallicharran: scored 76

Kallicharran slams Northants

Richards gets county cap

LONDON, April 30. (Reuters) West Indies captain Viv Richards was awarded his county cap by Glamorgan after a match-winning performance in the English Sunday League.

Richards blasted 59 of his new county's total of 182 for nine, an innings which included a six and eight fours. It was enough to secure a 32 runs triumph over Leicestershire.

Another West Indies Test cricketer in sparkling form was veteran Alvin Kallicharran. He led Warwickshire to a seven wickets victory against Northamptonshire with a brilliant 76.

He cracked eight boundaries and put on 114 for the second wicket with Australian Tom Moody, who made 46.

England's Allan Lamb made 70 off 78 deliveries and Robert Bailey 58 in a second wicket stand of 128 for Northamptonshire.

Simon Base claimed four wickets for the second Sunday running as Derbyshire beat Worcestershire by 35 runs. He snapped up four for 32 as Worcestershire collapsed to 158 all out attempting to beat Derbyshire's 193 for seven.

Base shared the honours with teenager Chris Adams who held three super catches, including the prize scalp of Graeme Hick for 46 as he attempted to hit Adrian Kuiper for six.

Former England captain David Gower's debut for Hampshire ended in defeat as Kent, inspired by a Sunday best 95 from Neil Taylor, won by 53 runs. Gower made 32.

Current England skipper Graham Gooch removed Derek Pringle from the Essex attack after a three for five burst and the county went down by 12 runs to Middlesex.

Results

At Lord's: Middlesex beat Essex by 12 runs. Middlesex 220 for six innings closed (K. Brown 50, R. Butcher 44 not out, M. Ramprakash 40; D. Pringle four for 27), Essex 208 in 39.5 overs (M. Gower made 32).

At Cardiff: Glamorgan beat Leicestershire by 32 runs. Glamorgan 182 for nine innings closed (V. Richards 59, L. Taylor three for 34), Leicestershire 150 in 38.1 overs (J. Whitaker 72; M. Frost three for 30). Glamorgan four points.

At Taunton: Somerset beat Gloucestershire by 10 wickets on the final day of a four-day English county Championship cricket match at Taunton yesterday, scores: Gloucestershire 197 in 64.1 overs and 339 (J. Lloyds 93; A. Jones six for 27), Somerset 438 in 94.1 overs and 99 for no wicket (S. Cook 62 not out). Somerset 24 points, Gloucestershire five.

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Stewart takes Athletics past Red Sox



Baltimore Orioles Joe Orsulak leaps at the fence to catch a deep fly ball hit by Seattle Mariners' Harold Reynolds. (Reuters wirephoto).

BOSTON, April 30. (AP) Dave Stewart won his 19th consecutive decision to April and beat Roger Clemens for the fourth straight time yesterday as the Oakland Athletics defeated the Boston Red Sox.

Jose Canseco's run-scoring single in the first inning decided a duel between two of baseball's premier pitchers and ended Oakland's six-game losing streak at Fenway Park.

Stewart (5-0) gave up six hits in 72.3 innings, striking out six and walking four. Dennis Eckersley finished for his seventh save in seven opportunities. Clemens (4-1) allowed four hits, walked four and struck out two in seven innings.

Angels 4, Yankees 3. Mark Langston allowed two runs in six-plus innings for his second victory with California as the Angels held off the New York Yankees to snap a three-game losing streak.

Steve Balboni flied out with the bases loaded to end the game as California stopped a seven-game losing streak at Yankee stadium. The only time New York won more consecutive games from the Angels at home was during the 1961-62 seasons.

Langston (2-1) allowing one run and four hits in six innings. Dave LaPoint (1-2) was the loser.

After the game, the Angels traded Claudio Washington and Minor Leaguer Rich Monteleone to the Yankees for Luis Polonia.

Indians 6, Twins 4.

Rookie Carlos Baerga hit an RBI triple and scored, offsetting his own sloppy defense as the Cleveland Indians beat the Minnesota Twins and remained the only unbeaten team at home.

The Indians are 6-0 at Cleveland Stadium this year and have won 10 straight there since last September. The victory put them over .500 (9-8) for the first time this season.

Cleveland has won four straight overall and the Twins have lost four in a row. Greg Swindell (2-2) pitched 5 2-3 innings and Doug Jones got his sixth save in six opportunities. Roy Smith (0-3) took the loss.

Orioles 5, Mariners 4.

Rene Gonzalez hit a solo home run with one out in the ninth inning and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Seattle Mariners, ending a five-game losing streak.

Gonzalez connected for his first home run since June 1, 1989. He homered off Mike Jackson (1-1) and stopped Seattle's four-game winning strig. Mark Williams (1-0) got the victory.

Results

California	4	New York	3
Cleveland	6	Minnesota	4
Milwaukee	6	Detroit	1
Baltimore	5	Seattle	4
Chicago	10	Toronto	3
Kansas City	5	Texas	2
National League			
Atlanta	3	Philadelphia	1
Montreal	6	Cincinnati	3
Houston	2	New York	1
San Francisco	9	St Louis	7
Pittsburgh	10	San Diego	1
Chicago Cubs	4	Los Angeles	0